

## Chiefs sign off proposals for blaze-hit Shannon's land

# MILL SITE HOPE IN SCHOOL PLAN

Report by Tom Oakley

**A MULTI-MILLION pound project to open a school where a building was destroyed in one of Walsall's biggest ever fires has been revealed.**

Plans to bring the The Ladder School to Shannon's Mill site in the town centre have been 'signed off' by education chiefs.

The scheme would bring 112 spaces and cater for young people aged between 13 to 18.

The Department of Education has backed the proposals and it is now subject to planning permission being granted by Walsall Council.

New facilities at the proposed site will be ready to move into for the 2019/20 academic year with a temporary site at Millennium House being utilised by up to 40 students from January 2019 until its completion.

The development comes on the back of the hugely successful Ladder for the Black Country launched in the Chronicle's sister newspaper, Express & Star.

Kevin Davis, chief executive of Vine Trust charity which helped launch the Ladder campaign, said: "At St James' Palace back in 2016 we announced there that we were going to try and create a new school focusing on vocational studies and pulling in public and private sector employers. We're hitting the ground running now."

The Victorian Shannon's Mill building went up in flames in 2007 - bringing the town into chaos and leaving the building devastated.

The school aims to primarily meet the needs of Walsall students with the potential to serve the wider Black Country.

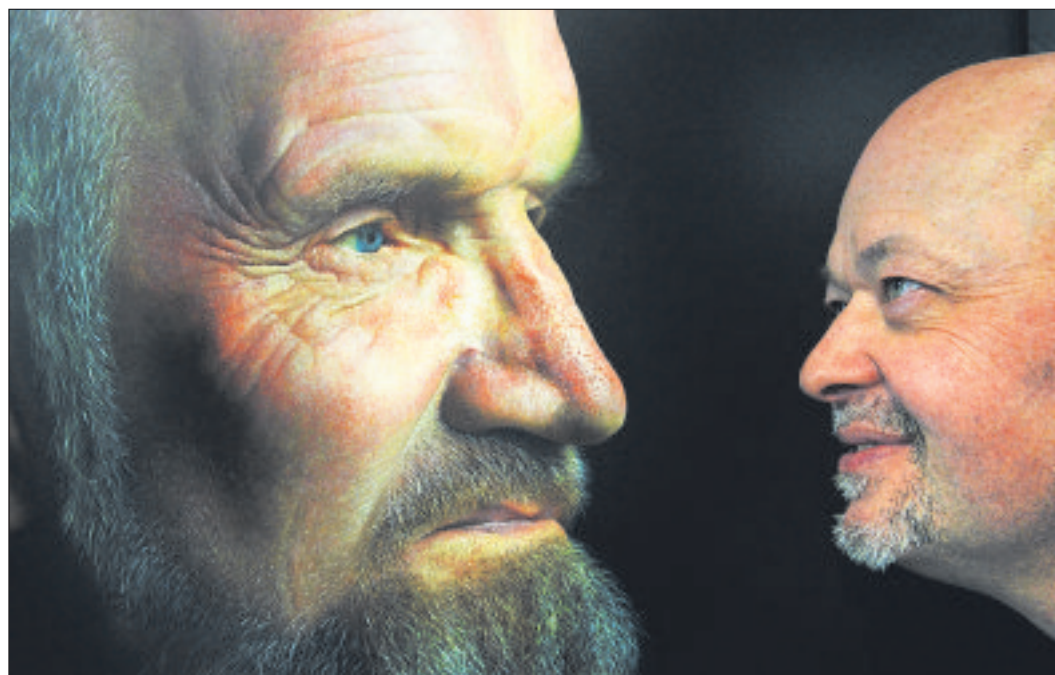
A headteacher to the school has been recruited and now a consultation window has opened open for the proposed new school.

Between now and July, the new Mercian Trust is consulting on proposals to open the new Alternative Provision Free School, originally proposed by Walsall Studio School.

St Matthew's ward councillor, Aftab Nawaz welcomed the news.

He said: "This is an exciting time for Walsall and will provide a much-needed vocational option for students. Developing that quarter of the town and to have a school dedicated on a site where some of our big industries existed is a good tribute to the town."

## ANDREW GETTING FACE TO FACE WITH EXHIBITION



Walsall artist Andrew Tift from Bloxwich presents a major exhibition at the New Art Gallery, Andrew seen with his work George



Andrew with an image of himself on show

AN internationally recognised Bloxwich-born portrait artist has launched his latest exhibition. The 'Immortalise' exhibition by Andrew Tift is being showcased at The New Art Gallery in Walsall.

It promises to bring together new works combined with selected works from the artist's past practice and will comprise paintings, drawings, sketchbooks and for the first time, a series of photographs. The exhibition was launched on

Thursday evening and people will be able to see it until September 2. Previously, his talent has attracted a series of important portrait commissions of personalities such as Noddy Holder, Tony Benn, Lord Carrington, Neil and Glenys Kinnock. A fully illustrated publication will accompany the exhibition

For details, visit [thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk/exhibition/andrew-tift-immortalise](http://thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk/exhibition/andrew-tift-immortalise)

● Gallery - See page 2

## Tragedy as man dies after floods



A hazardous area response team at the scene after a man's vehicle became submerged. Picture: Peter Bowles

A MAN died after his van was submerged in water in Walsall following flash flooding. The tragedy occurred amid the torrential downpours which swamped the region over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Police confirmed a man in his 80s had died in the early hours of Monday - despite the efforts of two have-a-go heroes.

Eyewitnesses said a resident and council worker had desperately tried to rescue the victim, diving into the water at around 2am and trying to break the van window with a hammer. However, the man, believed to be in his 80s, was taken to hospital and pronounced dead a short time later.

Mother of two Kirinna Johnson, 26, said: "One of our neighbours dived in when he saw the car get stuck, he was a real hero."

### Hammer

"He said he saw the driver open the door and try to push the van but the water was too deep. When that failed, he got back in and tried to reverse out. A council worker, who had just dropped off some sandbags, waded in too. They shouted for a hammer and tried to break a window. But by the time help arrived he'd been in the water for five minutes."

The couple said youngsters stood near the bridge for much of the night warning motorists not to enter the water but many ignored them. Ch Insp Paul Ditta, of West Midlands Police, said: "Our thoughts are with the family of the man who died. There are a number of roads affected across the region." Flooding had blocked Bridgeman Street in Walsall between Bradford Street and Station Street. Police urged motorists not to travel down Boatmans Lane, in Walsall Wood.

● Pictures - Page 3

## INSIDE HI-TECH BOOST FOR CENTRE



PAGE 5



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# Andrew brings new exhibition to gallery



Andrew with one of his works

THE New Art Gallery will be showcasing the work of one of the town's most famous artists with an exhibition which runs through to the autumn.

World-renowned portrait specialist Andrew Tift, born in Bloxwich, has brought his Immortalise display to the gallery, bringing together brand new works combined with selected pieces from his long and varied career.

It comprises paintings, drawings, sketchbooks and for the first time a series of photographs.

The event got underway last Thursday evening and people will be able to see it

until September 2. Mr Tift's talent has attracted a series of important portrait commissions of personalities such as the late Tony Benn, Lord Carrington, Neil and Glenys Kinnock, Ken Livingstone and ex-comedy legend, Eric Sykes.

He has also been commissioned by significant institutions including the National Portrait Gallery in London, the Smithsonian in Washington, USA, and the Palace of Westminster.

His subjects have included Native American Indians, hippies, Vietnam veterans, and Black Country steelworkers.

A fully illustrated publication will accompany the exhibition with an essay by Charlotte Mullins - available for £20 from the gallery shop.

A limited edition print by the artist has been produced to accompany the exhibition and is also available in the Gallery Shop at a special exhibition price of £150. Born in Bloxwich in 1968, he has lived locally ever since and as a young boy, he would amuse himself by copying album covers. He also studied at Stafford College of Art and the University of Central England, Birmingham. For details, visit [thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk/exhibition/andrew-tift-immortalise](http://thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk/exhibition/andrew-tift-immortalise)

# Channel swim legend memorabilia for sale

**TROPHIES and memorabilia which belonged to a local swimming legend will go under the hammer.**

Black Country legend Bill Pickering became the eleventh person to swim the English Channel in 1955 - breaking the then record time.

Originally from Derbyshire, he came to Walsall in the early 1950s where he worked at Bloxwich Baths for 35 years.

Following his death in 2014, aged 93, close friend Steven Stewart, from Over-seal, near Swadlincote, inherited the items, which are now being auctioned off at Richard Winterton Auctioneers' Collectors Sale in Lichfield.

Mr Pickering, who even taught comedian Sir Ken Dodd to swim, was given a hero's welcome after crossing the Channel - with crowds gathering in the streets of Walsall to celebrate his achievements.

Among the items up for grabs photographs and collectables of him and friend Ken Dodd from the early 1960s onwards, as well as watches, medals, handbooks, various trophies.

Auctioneer, Richard Winterton, said: "This collection not only highlights Bill Pickering's swimming skills but is testimony to what a much-loved and respected figure he was. Not many people can say they were the fastest person on the planet to swim the English Channel, let alone teaching the Squire of Knotty Ash himself, Ken Dodd, to swim!"

Mr Pickering's other achievements included swimming the The Wash, the Bristol Channel, the Firth of Forth, across Morecambe Bay, Dover to Ramsgate and Blackpool Pier to Pier.

He broke the world record for the English Channel 21-mile England to France challenge in August 1955 in just 14 hours and six minutes. The sale is at The Lichfield Auction Centre, Fradley Park, on June 11. For more information call 01543 251081 or email [lichfield@richardwinterton.co.uk](mailto:lichfield@richardwinterton.co.uk)



A jubilant Bill Pickering, after swimming the English Channel



Ken Dodd with Bill, who taught him to swim



Bill's triumphant return home after his world record



Bill's friend Steven Stewart with the memorabilia

# Protesters in pledge to disrupt rail sleeper start

PROTESTERS against plans to build a controversial factory next to their homes said they will block lorries on the day work begins.

The 'People of Wednesbury Say No to Network Rail' group say they will hold a picket on June 4 to stop engineers carrying out ground survey work.

The protesters are opposed to a new concrete sleeper manufacturing centre that Network Rail is seeking to build on the existing Bescot sidings on the border of Wednesbury and Walsall. But before work has begun protesters claim that existing lorry movements on and off the site are making residents life miserable.

Local resident Wayne Trinder says he is backing the threatened blockade '110 per cent' because lorry movements past his home on Sandy Lane are already too high. He claimed: "At present some 200 HGVs a day use Sandy Lane with about 30 going onto the site. The noise and disturbance is terrible."

The proposal to build a concrete sleeper factory, which would produce 600,000 units a year, has already led to campaigners presenting a petition signed by more than 4,000 people to Sandwell Council.

In an effort to highlight their campaign protesters are now hoping dozens of residents will join them in trying to prevent lorries getting onto the site. They are also hoping locals will join them in filing objections to the proposal when an expected planning applications is lodged with Sandwell Council later this year.

# Get messy for children's charity

FAMILIES can get messy in aid of the NSPCC this summer as a popular event comes to the West Midlands for the first time. The NSPCC's 'Messathon' will take place at Sandwell Valley Park on July 21 and 22 - and budding competitors can now sign up to take part.

It is one of only two Messathons taking place across the country this year, with the other in Surrey. Children aged four and above will have the chance to splatter through mud, swoosh along water slides and scramble over hay bales during the exhilarating course.

There will also be a ball pit, cargo net, wall climb and much more in the 2.5km course. Once participants finish the course, they can make a day of it by visiting the event village and enjoy food stalls, games and entertainment.

Everyone taking part gets a free t-shirt. Cash raised goes towards the NSPCC's vital work keeping children safe from abuse and neglect. Registration costs £15.50 for adults, £9.50 for children. To sign up for Messathon, visit [www.nspcc.org.uk/messathon](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/messathon).

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# 200 tower blocks will have new sprinklers

MORE than 200 Birmingham tower blocks will be fitted with sprinklers after city council bosses pushed through a decision which had been temporarily halted.

But the authority is faced with having to borrow millions of pounds to see through the work with chiefs sceptical that a Government funding bid will be accepted.

Council leader Ian Ward said the council would be 'ill-advised' to ignore the 'crystal clear' evidence from the London Assembly and West Midlands Fire Service which had recommended the installation of the suppression systems in response to the Grenfell Tower disaster.

But he added it was 'regrettable' Prime Minister Theresa May had indicated local authorities would not receive financial backing from the Government for the roll-out after the council made a written request for funding.

The council had already vowed to spend £19m of its own money on the programme but if their bid for £19.4m from the government is formally turned down they said they would fund the costs through prudential borrowing.

The sprinkler programme had previously been blocked by the council's housing and homes overview scrutiny committee following a backbench challenge.

## Arboretum fun run for charity

A FUN run is taking place next weekend to raise charity funds. The Pits Stop Fun Run 2018 gets under way at Walsall Arboretum's Centre Green, from noon on Saturday, June 9.

Runners and walkers can choose to do either a 5km or 10km course. The event is open to people of all ages and is raising money for Hope for Justice, which supports people who have been rescued from modern day slavery.

There will be fun family activities from 11.30am to 3.30pm, including food and drink, a bouncy castle, soft play area, cakes, crafts, and stalls.

Online registration is now open at [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk). Search for pits stop 10k/5k Fun Run and Walk 2018 or email [j10pitsstop@gmail.com](mailto:j10pitsstop@gmail.com) for more information.

## Police seize van

A VAN was seized by police after the driver had no insurance. Officers stopped the vehicle in Highfields Road, Burntwood on Saturday at about 8.30am. Anyone who has any information can call police on 101.

## FLOODS HIT WALSALL



A car is stranded in West Bromwich



Rain hammers down in Walker Street in Tipton



A fire engine on Pershore Road, Birmingham

# Pensioner tragedy as storms cause chaos



A car moves through deep water in Coalpool, Walsall



Where tragedy struck, at Lichfield Road, Rushall.

Picture: Kirinna Johnson

**WALSALL and the Black Country has been dealing with the aftermath of freak floods that caused havoc and tragedy over the Bank Holiday weekend.**

And residents around Lichfield Road, in Rushall are coming to terms with the death of a pensioner after his vehicle was caught in the rising waters underneath a railway bridge.

The storms which hit the region resulted in many areas suffering a month's rainfall in a matter of minutes. Eyewitnesses said a resident and council worker had desperately tried

to rescue the victim, diving into the floodwater at around 2am and trying to break the van window with a hammer. However, the man was taken to hospital and pronounced dead a short time later.

Mother-of-two Kirinna Johnson, aged 26, said: "One of our neighbours dived in when he saw the car get stuck, he was a real hero. "He said he saw the driver open the door and try to push the van but the water was too deep."

"When that failed, he got back in and tried to reverse out. A council worker, who had just dropped off some sandbags, waded in too. They shouted for a hammer and tried to break a win-

dow. Meanwhile, another neighbour called the police. But by the time help arrived he had been in the water for five minutes."

Her husband Daniel, 27, said: "Another neighbour blew up an air bed and sent it out on the water to help try and rescue him."

The couple said youngsters stood near the bridge for much of the night shouting at drivers to warn them of the danger, but many ignored them.

A driver was rescued from the same spot at around midnight after driving in from the direction of Walsall.

Residents said he dialled 999 in a panic from his mobile, telling emergency services that he could not swim.

Mr Johnson said: "He opened the boot and it looked like he was trying to get out through that exit. The car was floating in the water and all the stuff in his boot was bobbing in the water. Luckily he was rescued."

Resident Antonio Longhi, father of Councillor Marco Longhi, the Mayor of Walsall, lives in Ladypool Close beside the bridge where the tragedy occurred. He said water gushed down from Park Lane pits, an area of lakes and canals, into the road, which dips steeply under the railway bridge.

Water levels rose as high as two metres below the top of the bridge arch, turning the road into a treacherous 70-metre wide lake.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### New T-levels on way at colleges

THE first T-level exam courses - described as the greatest shake-up of technical education for 70 years - will be introduced at four schools and colleges in the Black Country.

The T-levels, which are technical qualifications at A-level standard, will be taught at Dudley College of Technology, Sandwell Academy, Walsall College and Walsall Studio School.

Dan Parkes, principal of Walsall Studio School, said: "We are thrilled to be pioneering excellence in the field of technical education as we further develop qualifications that employers value and real-world experiences for students that prepare them for the world of work."

### Hospital costs raised by MP

A BLACK Country MP has accused Government ministers of being 'paralysed by process' over the Midland Met Hospital delay. In the House of Commons, John Spellar said costs were rising on a daily basis.

He said: "More than four months after the collapse of Carillion, work has still not restarted. Two thirds of the money has already been spent. I have raised this issue endlessly with Ministers, and with the Prime Minister twice in this Chamber, so will the committee look at the failure of decision making in Government and what is, basically, paralysis by process?"

### Ramblers double up for weekend

THE Walsall Group of the Ramblers is taking a four-mile trail around Great Wyrley on Saturday. The meeting point is the car park at Oak Park C. P. (Lichfield Road) at 9.30am. More information can be obtained from the Walk Leader on 01922 692929

Then for the more adventurous on Sunday, the group will leave at 9am Walsall Group of the Ramblers will be leaving at 9.00am from Doe End Lane C.P. for an 11 mile circular walk around Barr Beacon. More information is available from the walk leader on 0786 082 7937.

### On track for school theatre production

A TOURING theatre company will perform their new show 'Great Train Robbery' at a West Bromwich school next month. Scratchworks Theatre Company will perform at George Salter Academy on Thursday, June 14, from 6.30pm.

It is part of Black Country Touring's Young Promoter Scheme. Tickets cost £4 for adults, £2.50 for children and £10 for a family of four. To book tickets, call 0121 553 4665.

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# COUNTY NEWS

## 11pc of weapons crime ends in jail

CRIMINALS in the West Midlands convicted for weapons possession were more likely to be given a community order than a prison sentence of more than a year, new figures show. According to the Ministry of Justice, 91 out of the 799 of people convicted for possession of guns or knives across the region last year were handed jail time of 12 months or more. While this represents only 11 per cent of those convicted, over the same period 235 offenders (30 per cent) were given community orders. Just 35 criminals caught with weapons (four per cent) were jailed for four years or more.

## Severn Trent to invest £100m

WATER company Severn Trent, which serves millions of customers across the Midlands, has unveiled a £100 million investment drive. It comes as the business confirmed its turnover for the year to March 31, increased to £1.69 billion, up from £1.63bn in 2017, while pre-tax profits also rose from £520.1m to £541m. The firm said that the £100m investment, which has been generated from savings, would go towards a number of initiatives. This includes 20,000 extra pressure monitors in its network of pipes, which means that leaks and bursts can be spotted more quickly.

## Contactless paying is proving popular

THE West Midlands has the joint highest level of banking customers with a contactless card. A study from UK Finance, the trade body representing the banking sector, put it at 81 per cent, level with the North East. Almost two-thirds (64 per cent) of banking customers in the region regularly use their card to make contactless payments – the highest proportion in the country. UK Finance looked at how technology and innovation are transforming retail banking.

## Knitted poppies plan down on farm

A CASCADE of knitted poppies is planned at a country park to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. The aim at Northcote Farm in Wolverhampton, is to have the display of red woollen poppies on display in time for the summer solstice on June 21. Poppies can be handed in to the Friends of Northcote base at Underhill Lane or to the farm manager.

# 450-home estate poised for go-ahead

CONTROVERSIAL plans for 450 new homes in Norton Canes are set to be given the final go-ahead by the council. The land north of the M6 between Norton Hall Lane and Butts Lane had been earmarked for the huge project under Cannock Chase District Council's local plan – sparking hundreds of objections. Now, a reserved matters proposal

is due to be backed by council chiefs. It comes after the scheme was given outline planning permission in 2015, with the more detailed application being put forward to the local authority in December last year. Developer Persimmon Homes and Bloor Homes are behind the plans to regenerate the land. Leader of the council George Adamson said he was 'sympathetic' towards the residents living close to the project. He added: "We're getting to stage where the district is starting to become pretty full. I would like to see affordable properties for local people as part of the project."

Public consultation saw 57 letters of representation including letters of objections against the project – with concerns expressed around traffic and the lack of infrastructure. Stephen Cleveley, director-in-charge of Persimmon Homes West Midlands, said: "Proposals for a new development in Norton Canes will bring much-needed homes and support jobs."

# Guinness record dream for the floating catwalk

By Pippa Armstrong

FAMOUS faces joined 30 professional models and some 120 guests to witness a Guinness world record attempt for the longest floating catwalk.

A Wolverhampton-based model agency is behind the bid, now waiting to hear if it has a place in the Guinness Book of Records. Dream Street Models, which was based in Walsall but is now at Hilton Hall in Essington, had waited 28 weeks to get approval from Guinness for the attempt.

The journey began in Stourport and saw the catwalk on a boat floating down the River Severn – considered to be the UK's longest river at 220 miles. A two-hour fashion show attracted such faces as X Factor stars Stevi Ritchie and Chloe Jasmine as well as a performance from 90s Icelandic pop singer Alda Bjork Olafsdóttir who has sold five million records worldwide.

## Platform

The event showcased designs from all over the UK – high street to couture fashion. The backstage team included the Bryanna Angel make-up artist as seen in Vogue and Julian Fiddimore's Revail who manage the elite beauty queens in the UK, along with top hairstylist Hair by Harps.

Dream Street Models founder Chloe Avon said: "I am happy to be able to provide a platform for designers to be seen whilst giving models the opportunity to walk in a large production."

She expects to find out within the next fortnight whether they achieved a world record. Dream Street is getting a reputation for unusual fashion venues. Last September it held a fashion show at Blithbury Reindeer Lodge in Rugeley. The next show will take place on a moving train at Chasewater Railway in Burntwood on July 1.



Hold tight – Icelandic singer Alda entertains  
Picture by Cloud11 Photography



X Factor star Chloe Jasmine.  
Picture David Sutton Photography



Evening look – crowds look on as another model takes to the floating catwalk



All aboard – the catwalk record attempt attracted hundreds of people

## New Street armed police to help with terror alerts

ARMED police will be based at Birmingham New Street station as part of a move to beef up security following the wave of terror attacks last year. A new unit featuring specialist firearms officers and a police dog and handler will be at the train station so they can respond more quickly to terrorist attacks or major emergencies. British Transport Police said its Midlands hub was part of an effort to ramp up counter-terror policing. Its team will be able to 'respond more quickly to incidents and provide additional reassurance to passengers and rail staff'.

Britain was rocked by a series of attacks in 2017, including the Manchester Arena bomb explosion and Westminster Bridge car and knife attack in London. Police chiefs said the move was not being made in relation to any specific threat to the West Midlands.

As one of the busiest train stations in the country, counter-terror experts said they felt it was important to increase the level of security. Its central location will also enable officers to get to other parts of the country in the event of an emergency.

Superintendent Chris Horton, from British Transport Police Specialist Operations, said: "We want the public to be reassured that wherever they go on the rail network, we have highly trained people there to protect them if needed."

"The opening of the Midlands hub provides us with a regional base for our specialist operations teams which means we can better respond to incidents should they occur, as well as patrol the network more effectively."

## £295k fines for illegals in work

WEST Midlands businesses were fined £295,000 between April and June last year for employing illegal workers.

Despite this a survey by online vetting and screening company uCheck found that a third of British business owners still feel empathetic toward people working illegally in the UK.

The survey took in 2,800 business owners to get their honest opinion and 22.1 per cent said that immigrants are 'just trying to earn a living', while 11 per cent felt that the illegal workers 'deserve the right to work'.

The study found that those in the charity sector were the most compassionate toward illegal workers, though only just over half (52.4 per cent) felt empathy for those trying to earn a living illegally.

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# Metro is on track for a new name in takeover

THE Midland Metro is to be rebranded by the region's combined authority when it takes over the running of the service next month.

The tram service will be known as West Midlands Metro from June 24.

Transport for West Midlands, part of the West Midlands Combined Authority, is taking over the service from National Express.

The change will mean a major re-branding job on trams and at stations. It comes ahead of a £200 million extension which will see the Metro reach new parts of the Black Country.

It currently operates between Wolverhampton and Birmingham but the expansion will take it from Wednesbury through to Tipton, Merry Hill shopping centre into Dudley town centre. The Metro is being brought under the control of the combined authority, which is hoping to enhance the status of the service and increase passenger numbers. The new route will take in several large attractions as well as Merry Hill.

The new seven-mile line from Wednesbury will run along part of the former South Staffordshire railway from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill town centre with 17 stops, including at the DY5 Enterprise Zone at the Waterfront, Merry Hill Shopping Centre, Dudley Bus Station, and at Castle Hill for the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Castle.

# Crews battle fire at Burger King

FIREFIGHTERS fought a blaze at Burger King in Walsall town centre.

Six crews from West Midlands Fire Service tackled the flames at the fast food restaurant on Park Street, after being called out at 9.11am last Tuesday. A spokesperson for the fire service said the fire was initially in a griddle but spread to the roof.

There were no reports of injuries to staff or the public.

The spokesperson also confirmed that 15 per cent of the restaurant's first floor was involved in the fire, while all of the ground floor was filled with smoke. Neighbouring buildings have also been affected by the smoke.

Emergency services held a multi-agency debriefing to establish how the blaze started.

# Overturned lorry

DRIVERS were delayed by an accident when a lorry overturned on the A5 yesterday last Thursday afternoon.

The incident happened by the Rising Sun Island in Brownhills, Walsall.

# Care home turns its fortunes around



Most Improved Safety Culture Award win

A CARE home that plummeted into special measures after being slammed by the health inspectorate has turned its fortunes around.

Ash Grange Nursing Home in Bloxwich, Walsall, was rated inadequate in August but has seen improvements in all areas. It is has been removed from special measures and its safeness and effectiveness is now rated good.

However, the Care Quality Commission is still urging the home to make further improvements following a recent inspection. The care, responsiveness and how well the ser-

vice is led still require improvement. Ash Grange, in Valley Road, also won the 'Most Improved Safety Culture' award at this year's Walsall SPACE Conference where Elaine Proud, area quality director at HC-One, spoke about the progress the home had made.

She said: "I was called in October to come and help out at the home which, it is safe to say, had some safety concerns after the CQC inspection in August. At the time of meeting the team initially, they were pretty despondent and embarrassed by the outcome of

the inspection. I was very fortunate to have a team willing and supportive in wanting to make things better.

"Walsall Healthcare Trust suggested the team at Ash Grange go on Appreciative Inquiry training to help with adopting positive psychology and to improve staff wellbeing/resilience. This training gave them a sense of hope that they can turn things round with the right resources, leadership and guidance. In such a short amount of time, something great has been instilled at the home, which has resulted in progress."

# MP: Future of centre at risk with M&S closure

THE future of the Saddlers Centre has been put in jeopardy by the imminent closure of its Marks and Spencer store, an MP has warned.

Eddie Hughes says he has 'grave concerns' over the Walsall shopping centre, after M&S announced it was pulling out of the town as part of a dramatic retreat from the high street.

The store opened in 1980 and was the centrepiece of the Saddlers Centre, which Walsall Council bought with a 'high risk' loan of £13.8 million last year.

Mr Hughes, the Conservative MP for Walsall North, said he was 'deeply saddened' by the closure, which will see 94 staff lose their jobs.

And he added: "These are worrying times for the future of the centre as a whole.

"When a major store goes from any shopping centre there is always the chance of a domino effect and other stores following suit.

"Taking out such a large, high risk loan to buy the centre was a reckless move from the Labour controlled council right from the start. "It was an attempt to commercialise the council that looks to have backfired."

## Benefits

Walsall Council struck a controversial deal to buy the Saddlers Centre in August 2017, at a time when service cuts such as library closures were being signed off due to serious financial struggles.

Bosses initially refused to say how they had financed the purchase, but the details were revealed following a Freedom of Information request to the Government's Debt Management Office.

The council took out a £13.8m interest-only loan over five years, with £92,460 to be paid twice a year and the full balance due in February 2023.

Councillor Sean Coughlan, the Labour group leader who led the authority at the time, insisted the council would reap the benefits of rental income on the units, as well as regenerating retail in the town. Last month he hailed the project a success after announcing a forecast revenue profit of £506,000 in the first seven months of ownership.

## Centre is hi-tech again after revamp



Centre manager Roger Butt of Short Heath with centre users after the hi-tech revamp

A CHARITY is celebrating a recent revamp thanks to a £10,000 cash boost.

Holy Trinity UK Online Computer Centre in Short Heath has 12 new computers, two printers, and an interactive whiteboard thanks to grants and the generosity of members. The centre is part

of the Willenhall church's outreach programme and they have 30 regular members coming to one of the three drop-in sessions they hold each week.

They were supported by MP for Walsall North Eddie Hughes who visited to hold a surgery. With a £5,000 grant from the Lichfield

Diocese, a £3,000 grant from the parish church and £2,000 of donations from members, they raised enough to revamp the centre.

Hall and centre manager Roger Butt, aged 81, said: "It really affected me when we got that sort of response from the members. It is truly mind boggling."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Men held after perfume reports

TWO men have been arrested in connection with vulnerable women being allegedly approached to buy fake perfume in Walsall town centre.

Police have issued a warning about such incidents and have warned women to zip up their bags and not to carry purses. PCSO Tracey Bingham said there had been reports of vulnerable women feeling pressurised into buying fake perfume and being escorted to cashpoints. Police have stepped up patrols.

PCSO Bingham said: "A gentle reminder for all females, please remember to zip up your bags in the store before leaving."

## Three car crash on busy route

ONE woman was taken to hospital after a three car crash on the Black Country Route. Emergency services were called to the area at around 5.45pm on Thursday to reports of a crash involving three cars at the route's junction with Midland Road.

One woman, in her 20s, was taken to New Cross Hospital, while a man and a woman were discharged at the scene. Jamie Arrowsmith, spokesman for West Midlands Ambulance Service, said: "One ambulance attended the scene. We assessed three patients in total."

## Auction sees high residential prices

A WILLENHALL house had doubled its expected price in the latest property auction at Aston Villa's Villa Park ground.

A four-bedroomed, semi-detached house, 4 Thompson Street in Willenhall, had a guide of £75,000 and the hammer finally fell for £158,000.

A semi-detached three bedroomed house in Wolverhampton, 25 Oaklands Green in Bilston, which had a guide price of £19,000 to £24,000 sold for £97,000.

The next SDL Auctions Bigwood auction at Aston Villa is on July 18.

## Orchestra to back Caine's Italian Job

THE original Italian Job movie is returning to the big screen for a special performance in the West Midlands.

The Michael Caine classic will be shown at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Sunday July 15 whilst a big band and an orchestra play the musical score live. Tickets for the event, featuring an HD remastered version of the film, range from £27.50 to £49.50 and can be bought from [www.ticketmaster.co.uk/the-italian-job](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/the-italian-job)

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Storing up trouble as millions shop online

IT'S always a bit of a downer when you return from your holiday. And even more so when you switch on the television hoping to relax with a pint of mild and a bit of Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away, only to be greeted instead by Fiona Phillips wittering on about the 'fall of a national institution'.

Asking the so-so former breakfast TV presenter to analyse the decline of Marks & Spencer is like getting Gazza to front a documentary on Greek literature. Strange choice.

But while it was not the viewing I had planned, there is also no denying Channel 5 had its timing spot-on with this one, coinciding perfectly with the news that M&S would be closing 100 stores, with the one in Walsall among the first.

Now, unlike Fiona, I don't hold any great place in my heart for M&S. Maybe it's the memories of never-ending boredom in childhood, when this seemed by far the duller place in the world. Or maybe it was the way it so quickly turned its back on the high streets of Dudley and West Bromwich when it calculated there was more profit in having a single branch at Merry Hill.

This is not a national institution, it's just another store chain. And one which showed so little loyalty to its Black Country customers in the 1980s can hardly demand an outpouring of goodwill now it is facing hard times.

But while I won't mourn the brand, I do feel huge sadness for the people losing their jobs through no fault of their own, and also the huge hole this is going to leave in our already-struggling town centres. Already there is speculation about the future viability of the Saddlers Centre, where the Walsall branch is based, and I fear we will see more of the same when the full extent of the closure programme becomes clear.

It seems the one thing everyone agrees on is that it is growth of online shopping which is killing our towns. So why do we do it? Well frankly, I don't. I've never seen the appeal in paying up-front for items I haven't seen, and then being told they can't be delivered because I am at work. Yet strangely, millions of people can't get enough of it, probably the same people who will take to their keyboards bemoaning the decline of their town.

It's time to wake up. If you care about where you live, support your town centre, even if it means paying a few pounds more. Otherwise, a few years from now, all we will be left with is a few global technology giants. And nobody will make documentaries mourning their passing.

## No life, or style for retirement, it seems, with magazine



Blair's latest Brexit re-referendum rambolings brought forth an interesting response



Gordon Brown in his days as PM – as chancellor, he is accused of targeting Mr Rhodes



TV fly-on-the-wall show 24 Hours In Police Custody – making no assumptions

# Feeling ruff after taking supplement

I MENTIONED Virol a few days ago. It was a food supplement which vanished from the market some years back. A reader, after some research, points out that the ingredients of Virol sound remarkably like dog food. Well, it never did me any harm. Woof.

INTRIGUINGLY, a Google search for Virol will take you to an Amazon web page offering three varieties of malt extract and a weatherproof masonry sealer. Versatile, or what?

AH, the eternal steely pragmatism of the British. An online debate about Tony Blair's suggestion for a second Brexit referendum brought forth this gem: "While the message was okay, nonetheless after reading it, could someone please shoot the \*\*\*\*ing messenger."

ANOTHER flurry of messages follows up the issue of litter around Loch Lomond which I touched on recently. "The answer is education," declares one contributor. Really? And how many hours in the classroom does it take to convey the message: "Don't drop that."?

THERE were times during the Chancellorship of Gordon Brown when I thought he had it in for me personally. His budgets seemed surgically targeted at me for earning a little more than the minimum wage, using a company car and having a fuel card, while he was bunging more money to the old and frail. Year after year, Brown took money out of my wage packet and gave it to my mother-in-law. Was this his revenge for one or two (okay, maybe more) dif-

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



ficult interviews? Anyway, the Tory government has now taken up the hounding of me. In the crusade against pollution, I am targeted for driving a diesel car, for having solid-fuel central heating and for keeping the baronial hall tepid with a couple of log-burning stoves. All may be banned in the name of cleaner air. Dare no-one suggest the problem could be solved if selfish people learned to breathe a little less?

WHEN a man in Ohio phoned police to report that a pig was following him home, the cops assumed the caller was drunk. Not so. He was sober and the animal was a domestic pig in need of company. I bet we were all reminded of the poem about the drunk who falls asleep in the gutter next to a pig. There are several versions but they all end with a lady, disgusted at the sight exclaiming: "You can tell a man who boozes by the company he chooses." / And the pig got up and slowly walked away.

SOMETHING called a "Lifestyle Retirement Magazine" has just arrived from Legal & General. Dear God above – is this the future? The front cover shows an old bloke with a grey Corby-like beard riding a bike while wearing a plastic helmet. On his feet are trainers, worn over black socks, presumably to indicate he is

English. They call it "lifestyle" but what sort of life is this and where, oh where, is the style? Turn to page 5 of the L&G leaflet and there's a graphic of a toilet roll. Why? Because according to a survey, one of the things that surprises people when they retire is "How many toilet rolls we use." For the record, I know several retired folk who don't own a bike or a beard, and who never, ever fret about bog-paper. And if they found themselves morphing into Jeremy Corbyn I'm sure they'd do something about it. If this is the image most people have about retirement it may explain why so many are happy to keep on working.

EVERY journalist knows that sinking feeling experienced by the detective in 24 Hours in Police Custody (C4) when the threads fall apart and you realise the great story you're working on isn't a story at all. In this case it came when an officer uncovered medical records showing that a woman found with her throat slashed – and assumed to be a murder victim – had a long history of self-harming, including trying to cut her throat. But then the only eye-witness had already told cops she had seen the "victim" alone at the death scene. I found it surprising that anybody, in this case the woman's oddball partner, could be arrested and held in custody on little more than an assumption. They tell us we're innocent until proved guilty!

BUT then police and hacks work differently. For example, "never assume anything" is one of the golden rules of journalism. At least I assume it is.

## TALKING POINT



# Music to my ears to say I'm a rock chick

LIKE Cher without the surgery, Debbie Harry on a quiet day and Madonna if she ate cake – I too am an ageing rock chick. As a sassy teen rocker I can remember looking at 'old' people at gigs – probably aged about 35 to my young eyes – and wondering why would they still be turning out for concerts at their age?

Today I am more than a little over the age of 35 and still go to as many gigs as ever. Admittedly my back and calf muscles ache the following day. And though my jeans are still too tight it is in very different places and more to do with a hearty supper rather than some DIY tapering on my mum's sewing machine. I tend to take a coat these days too.

The standing/dancing area remains my ticket of choice and, being vertically challenged, I need to get close enough to see. Though when going to watch the 'classic' bands still going from my youth I find they are often all-seaters now. Even the singers tend to need a sit down.

I can still be found at the odd music festival – but NEVER in the camping area. Camping at music festivals is something that can only be enjoyed by the young or insomniacs. Give me a nice warm hotel bed and an en suite bathroom every time. My back isn't up to a camp bed or deflating airbed anymore.

Sadly, there seems something a little undignified to see women of a certain age still staking a claim to their place in the music scene. Isn't it time Madonna covered up a little and stopped subjecting us to images of her muscles and veiny arms? And I don't doubt that the excitable young things bounding around at Kasabian view my bestie and I as a pair of Edina and Patsy clones.

In truth I always thought I would 'grow out of' loud and live music at some point and develop a love of easy listening and maybe even classical. Thankfully it never happened.

I dislike the rapid-chat-to-music that my daughter listens to and can regularly be heard shouting mumpily 'turn that row down'. Would it kill her to listen to a guitar band every now and again?

But music still lifts my mood, evokes uncharacteristic energy and movement from me and brings a smile to my face. So I have no intention of giving up going to concerts – I am an ageing rocker and proud of it.

I once saw a 'motivational' plaque with the message 'Life is a piece of music, and you are supposed to be dancing.' Well I am still dancing – just not in the the mosh pit anymore.

DIANE DAVIES

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# Understand the changing working class

POLITICIANS don't often talk about the working class. For years, politicians have competed to win over voters in Middle England marginal constituencies.

And when they do talk about working-class voters, they tend to mean the traditional working class, which is a relatively small part of the population.

There is still a sizeable working class in Britain today, but it has changed, and politics has failed to change with it. Over time, support for Labour amongst working-class voters has

declined, while support for the Conservatives has increased. In 2017, the Conservatives had one of their best showings amongst working-class voters, and while Theresa May's pitch to the working class was not enough to secure those seats; a more sustained campaign could pay off next time around.

The vote to leave the European Union should have acted as a wake-up call to politicians to the fact that many people, particularly those on lower incomes, do not feel well-represented in

politics. Politicians should start with where the public are, rather than keep expecting the public to come to politicians.

Broadly speaking, the top concern for this new working class is money and debt; followed by health, immigration, caring responsibilities, work, and housing. Policies such as a day one employment rights charter for all would indicate a party's commitment to fairness and offer protection to workers.

ALAN DAVIS  
Darlaston

## Republican yearnings from writer

MR Harrison seems to feature a great deal in the "Letters to the Editor".

I note Mr Harrison's 'youthful conviction' which he admits to clinging to in the hope, no doubt, that one day he will live in The People's Republic of Britain.

Perhaps such naive political notions should be left behind with the aforementioned youth.

Mr Harrison (otherwise known as Wolfie Smith) seems to feel that a democratically elected head of state would solve a few 'problems'.

Perhaps he should consider the plight of some of the South American countries where there is a democratically elected head of state and a left leaning political environment: coupled with economies that have tanked with dire consequences for the majority of inhabitants.

The cost of a one way ticket to South America is not too expensive.

KIRK NUNN  
Bloxwich

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Walsall Chronicle,  
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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## Stop potty mouths spoiling days out

ON public transport, on the street, in the park or around the towns, the level of foul mouthed exchanges people share is everywhere.

Using the F-word singly or in a string of potty mouthed utterances to add exaggeration, exasperation, emphasis or plain sounding off. This is what we hear as we go about our daily tasks. We all have times when the odd swear word can be a relief. We now live in a time where swearing is a language in itself which we all have inflicted on us, like it or not. Let's realise that there are thousands of expressive words in the English language not all of them are four letter words that start with F.

Make days out friendlier stop the potty mouths!

CLLR DOUG JAMES  
Walsall

## Keith, don't mention the war, again!

KEITH Parton complains that I keep banging on about Brexit. Can I repay the compliment by complaining that he keeps banging on about what we did in the Second World War.

First of all, we were on the winning side because a) there was a large expanse of water between us and Germany, b) Hitler stopped his troops at Dunkirk for three days when he had us on the run, c) the USA joined in the fight. As for the sacrifices we made, Poland suffered six million deaths and France 600,000 deaths; as far as I am aware they don't keep banging on about what they did in the war and they are both still in the EU.

We suffered 451,000 deaths and Brexiters go on relentlessly about how we saved the world. What about our Empire days Keith? We caused huge numbers of deaths by our uncaring and high-handed behaviour.

Democracy is not being usurped by opposing Brexit. ROGER WATTS  
Walsall

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# Pub attacker armed with baton is jailed

A DRUNK thug, who burst back into a pub where he had just been ejected from, armed with a wooden baton, has been jailed.

Michael Bent shouted 'I will take you all on' as he attacked two women, hitting one over the head and twice striking an arm of the other, a judge heard.

The 31-year-old defendant was asked to leave the Prince of Wales in Stafford Street, Walsall after ignoring pleas to calm down during a karaoke evening.

Five minutes later he started knocking on the window and the fire door was partially opened to discover what was going on, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

An eyewitness said Bent wrenched open the door and re-entered the pub brandishing the wooden baton 'like he was on a rampage,' said Mr Simon Phillips, prosecuting.

The defendant sent a karaoke speaker flying and hit a woman over the head as she went to pick it up. He then beat the other woman who went to her aid on December 10 2016, continued the prosecutor.

Bent, who took the baton from his rucksack after being kicked out, was traced by police to a nearby takeaway soon afterwards. The injured women suffered cuts and bruises.

While on bail for this incident he was detained again after abusing a pregnant neighbour, threatening to 'kick the baby out of her' on February 23 this year, revealed Mr Phillips.

Bent had previous convictions for 23 separate offences several of which involved offensive weapons and violence.

The defendant, from Leamore Lane, Walsall, was found guilty of affray and admitted two assaults and possession of an offensive weapon. He was jailed for two years 11 months by Judge Simon Ward who told him: "If you carry on like this you will just face longer and longer prison sentences."

## Drug farm in old restaurant



The plants at the former restaurant in Vicarage Place, complete with other paraphernalia.  
Photo: Walsall Police

A MAN has been charged after a cannabis factory was found at a former restaurant in Walsall.

Hoang Hug Vo, aged 20 and of no fixed address, was due to appear at Walsall Magistrates Court last week charged with the production of class B drugs. It comes after officers from the St Matthew's neigh-

bourhood policing team discovered a large number of cannabis plants growing in Vicarage Place, Walsall, last Monday evening.

Though the full extent of the drugs factory is still being investigated, it is thought that in excess of 1,000 plants may have been cultivated in a number of rooms.

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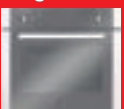
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# Is plan a fast lane to freeing traffic?

PETER MADELEY looks at the latest scheme for a western route to take traffic through our region

**IT is a proposed new stretch of motorway that some hope will ease congestion on the clogged roads of the West Midlands.**

The Western Strategic Route is under consideration by transport bosses, who are looking at ways to improve sluggish travel times on the region's roads that they say are having a detrimental impact on the local economy.

The planned route has been revealed in a report to the West Midlands Combined Authority's transport delivery committee by Midlands Connect, the body tasked with developing the transport strategy for the wider region.

While bosses say that no route has yet been finalised, the map shows that the new motorway would be likely to run along a similar route to the Western Orbital scheme, also known as the Wolverhampton bypass, which was first proposed three decades ago but never got built due to environmental concerns.

It starts in the south of the region at Junction 4a of the M5 at Bromsgrove. It heads towards Kidderminster before travelling through South Staffordshire, passing Stourbridge, Dudley and Wolverhampton to its east.

The route then joins up with Junction 2 of the M54 near the i54 business park. The route would effectively create an orbital motorway network, connecting the M54, M6 Toll, M42 and M5, with the M6 running through the centre.



The proposed path of the Western Strategic Route is shown in red

Plans for the Western Orbital scheme were first revealed in May 1988. At the time it was expected to cost £190 million and was initially put forward by the Department for Transport as a solution to congestion on the M6. The proposals met with a storm of protests, with councillors in Staffordshire warning that the motorway would have a devastating effect on countryside.

Lord Patrick Cormack, the then-Conservative MP for South Staffordshire, said at the time: "Naturally I am anxious to do everything I can to minimise the destructive impact of the road."

The plans were ditched in 1996 by John Major's Government due to a lack of interest from the private sector and environmental concerns, before returning in reduced form in 2001 as the Wolverhampton Bypass.

By that time the expected cost of the scheme was £500m, but two years later it was killed off again. Back then Wolverhampton councillor Milkinder Jaspal backed the scheme, and he has not changed his mind. "Congestion has got far worse since then and unless we do something about it, it will get worse still," he said.

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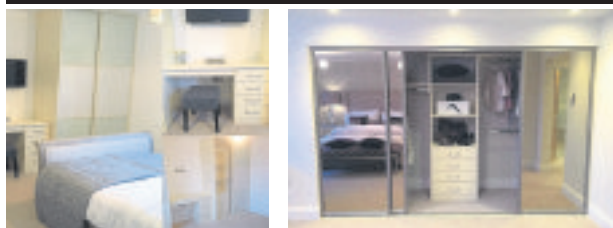


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# Teams of adventurers take on abseil challenge

FOUR fearless people from the Black Country have descended 200 feet from one of Birmingham's tallest buildings to raise more than £5,000 to help the homeless.

The four, who work for local companies, abseiled 19 storeys from the Holiday Inn Express in Snowhill to raise money for Digbeth-based SIFA Fireside, a charity protecting and supporting homeless people.

To make life even harder, the hotel's maintenance manager Kevin Walker, aged 37, who has lived in Heath Town, Wolverhampton, for 13 years, dressed as Batman, complete with cape.

Rob Rencher, from Walsall, who works for BAM Construction, West Midlands Trains' Kathleen Goodman from Halesowen, and Kingswinford's Paul Hodgetts also took on the challenge.

## Shoulder

Mr Walker said: "I had never done an abseil before. They told me I was doing it so I was on a shortlist of one."

"Going over the top of the roof was OK but seeing over your shoulder after, really made me concentrate."

He is no stranger to tough challenges, doing the Tough Mudder half-marathons, and bringing up three sons and two daughters with wife Sarah. Mr Rencher, a mechanical site engineer on developer Ballymore's Three Snowhill building, did the abseil on his 33rd birthday.

"I am used to working at height. I've installed the mechanical and electrical ductwork on Three Snowhill, but I have to admit I was nervous. I'd done an abseil before but it was only from



BAM's Three Snowhill abseil team before they took the plunge



Rob Rencher, from Walsall, who works for BAM Construction

about 30 feet. The hardest part was going over the ledge off the roof when you had to get the correct angle to descend. But as I started down, it was brilliant. It's a great charity to help because we've all seen rough sleepers while we have been working on the construction."

Kathleen Goodman, 42 has just moved to Halesowen and is the in-

ternal communications manager for West Midlands Trains. She abseiled together with her colleague Louise Pinder from Erdington.

She added: "A lot of us are concerned about homelessness. I was terrified; I hate heights! But I am so glad I did it. It's definitely worth it because we have raised almost £5,000 for SIFA Fireside so far."



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Eden puts her heart into inspiring pupils



Olympian Eden Francis demonstrates the discus to children at the school

AN Olympic athlete paid a visit to a school to inspire youngsters to take part in sport. Eden Francis visited Radley's Primary School in Rushall to give a talk to youngsters about her experiences. The 29-year-old athlete competed in the shot put and discus at the 2012 Olympics.

Office manager Emma Bucknall said: "It was brilliant - the children were really excited, even those who aren't as interested in PE. Some had never seen the shot put or discus before and Eden took the assembly where some of the children got to hold them. They watched a short video of her success story and how to have a healthy lifestyle which was great."

"It was really good for them. She explained how she had started out doing the long jump and high jump but struggled and never gave up. She kept going and never gave up which was nice to hear because the children can relate to that."

# Surge in use of GP service out of hours

THE NHS in Walsall has seen a surge in the number of people accessing out-of-hours GP appointments since last year.

NHS Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) launched its Extended GP Access service last December, allowing people registered with a Walsall GP to access late evening, weekend and bank holiday GP appointments.

Between then and last month, figures show that more than 8,500 people have accessed the service.

Professor Simon Brake, chief officer of NHS Walsall CCG said: "This is a fantastic service that has seen local GPs working together to help make it a success, and I am very pleased to see that many Walsall patients have utilised this service."

The CCG is also asking patients to complete a short survey about the service.

The extra appointments are available at three hubs across the borough, which are located at Broadway Medical Practice, Darlaston Health Centre and Pinfold Health Centre. The extra GP appointments are available between 6.30pm to 9pm

By Tom Oakley

on weekdays, 10am and 3pm on - excluding Darlaston Health Centre and 11am to 1.30pm on bank holidays.

The service is for patients who have a pressing illness or injury or are unable to attend their GP during normal opening hours. The Hubs are not walk-in centres and patients will only be seen by a GP if they have booked an appointment.

A dedicated phone number has been set up for patients to call and book an out-of-hours GP appointment. To book an appointment call 01922 501999.

NHS 111 will also be able to book an appointment on a person's behalf if they feel they the patient needs to see a GP.

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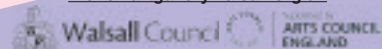
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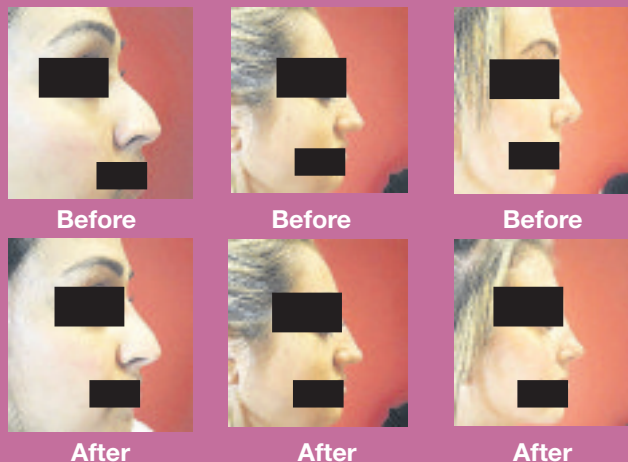


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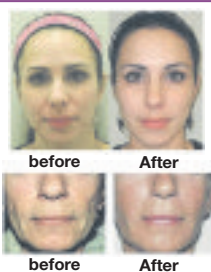
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## Roll out of rental bikes in summer

THE first rental bikes will appear in the West Midlands over the summer; it has been revealed.

Nextbike is to roll out 5,000 bikes along with connecting parking hubs over the next two years.

The first 100 will be introduced at University of Birmingham in the coming months.

This will be followed by 900 in Wolverhampton from September.

Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell will each get 300 this autumn.

It has not yet been decided where the docking stations will go. Cities and towns get one station to around every 16 bikes.

Nextbike was picked to run the bike concession by Transport for West Midlands, part of WMCA, earlier this year.

The move will create 50 jobs in the West Midlands.

Julian Scriven, director of Nextbike, said: "It's an incredibly exciting time for Wolverhampton and both the city and the football team are on the up."

"Nextbike will not only help deliver a cost-effective and environmentally-conscious way of getting around, it will bring a lot of additional benefits such as less traffic and improved health."

The pricing structure for the bikes has also been revealed. It will cost 50p to use a bike for every 30 minutes. Subscription packages will be available for £30-a-year with the first 30 minutes of every journey free, then 25p for each 30 minutes after.

The bikes will have eight gears. They will be similar to London's so-called Boris Bikes, named after Boris Johnson.

## Armed police to be based at New Street in wake of terror attacks

ARMED police will be based at Birmingham New Street station as part of a move to beef up security following the wave of terror attacks last year.

A new unit featuring specialist firearms officers and a police dog and handler will be at the train station so they can respond more quickly to terrorist attacks or major emergencies.

British Transport Police said its Midlands hub was part of an effort to ramp up counter-terror policing. Its team will work alongside regular officers and be able to 'respond more quickly to incidents and provide additional reassurance to passengers

and rail staff'. Britain was rocked by a series of attacks in 2017, including the Manchester Arena bomb explosion and Westminster Bridge car and knife attack in London.

Police chiefs said the move was not being made in relation to any specific threat to the West Midlands.

As one of the busiest train stations in the country, counter-terror experts said they felt it was important to increase the level of security. Its central location will also enable officers to get to other parts of the country in the event of an emergency.

Supt Chris Horton, from British

Transport Police Specialist Operations, said: "We want the public to be reassured that wherever they go on the rail network, we have highly trained people there to protect them if needed. The opening of the Midlands hub provides us with a regional base for our specialist operations teams which means we can better respond to incidents should they occur, as well as patrol the network more effectively."

"In the current climate, we know how important it is to make sure we have specialist officers in the right place at the right time to keep people safe."

## Nine years for thug who battered woman

**A THUG who beat a woman unconscious after he blamed her for the break-up of his relationship has started a nine year jail term.**

Matthew Haden-Maybury kicked down the front door of the flat of his victim in the Leamore area of Walsall while shouting abuse at her at 2am on March 17, a judge heard.

After battering his way into the first floor flat, the 28-year-old charged along the passageway to the bedroom where the terrified target of his fury was trying to ring the police, Miss Fiona Cortese, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The defendant snatched the phone from her hand and smashed it in the middle of the call before repeatedly punching her in the face with blows so hard her head kept ricocheting against the wall.

Hate-filled Haden-Maybury continued to punch and kick the helpless woman into unconsciousness before ransacking the flat, continued the prosecutor. Then he fled from the scene, pausing only to steal her com-



Matthew Haden-Maybury

puter tablet before leaving the woman battered and bruised. He was detained soon afterwards.

Mr Jon Roe, defending, said of Haden-Maybury, who had several previous convictions: "He is not normally prone to violence and had not committed any offence since 2015 when he took a pedal cycle.

"This reflects the change in a man who came from a troubled background but settled down with his own family. He has three children, found work as a landscape gardener and made efforts to put his past behind him."

"Unfortunately problems arose. He lost his job, creating increased pressures in the relationship which led to him splitting from his partner. He went to see the victim to confront her over what had happened."

"He reacted dreadfully with an appalling loss of temper. He bitterly regrets the damage he has done both to this lady and his own children."

Haden-Maybury, from Great Bridge Street, Moxley, admitted robbery and was jailed by Judge Simon Ward who told him: "You thought the injured party had something to do with you losing your fiancée, so you decided to go round to her home and exact revenge."

"I have seen the mess you made of her face and her flat. This was appalling violence. You did not break any bones but she is now depressed, afraid to stay in the flat and wants a move. This type of attack will have long term psychological consequences."

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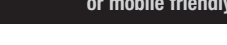
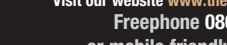
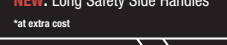
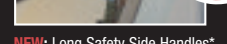
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# Youngsters get to grips with martial arts success

**YOUNGSTERS** from a Walsall martial arts club tasted success at a tournament, winning a collective group prize.

Twelve children from Simkin Martial Arts Academy, based in Lichfield Street, picked up the award for the best children's team in Britain at the British Open Championships, held in Coventry, earlier this month.

The Brazilian Jiu Jitsu students – who are aged between seven and 15 – all individually picked up medals too.

Coach Charlie Simkin said: "Twelve of our children competed in the British Open and they all won medals."

"With the points from the medals added together, we also won the best children's team in Britain."

## Achieve

"It was really good news for us, and a great day all round."

"We were really pleased with the result and it was great to see them all achieve what they had been training for in the weeks leading up to the competition."

"The children were over the moon which was great to see."

"Every child had their own category based on belts, level, age, gender and weight – then they had to fight through to reach the final."

The youngsters are now training for the World Championships which will be held at Aldersley Stadium, in Wolverhampton, on July 21 and 22.

Charlie added: "They are all training three to four times a week for that – with still eight weeks to go."

"They are all really looking forward to it following their recent success."



The successful youngsters from Simkin Martial Arts Academy

## Psychic night on the cards

A PSYCHIC night will take place in the region. The event will take place at The Mill Farm, Cannock on Wednesday June 13 from 7pm until 10pm.

The evening will consist of Tarot card, angle card and guidance card readings.

Psychic Heather Spedding, from Stafford, will perform one-to-one readings of a set of Inner Emotion Guidance Cards she has put together,

which feature drawings depicting different emotional states to help people understand their inner feelings.

There will also be three other psychic's performing readings at the event at the Lichfield Road pub.

There is a £2 admission fee for the evening, which includes entry into a raffle.

For more details visit: [www.spiritualpathwayz.co.uk](http://www.spiritualpathwayz.co.uk)

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# Hundreds of motorists are caught by police with mobile speed cameras

**MOBILE** speed cameras snared more than 500 motorists in Walsall in the last year – including 108 from disused static camera locations.

The cameras inside clearly-marked enforcement vans caught speeding drivers at six locations.

In total in 2017, 550 tickets were issued to motorists, who receive a minimum fine of £100 and three penalty points. Most tickets were issued from a mobile camera on the B4138 Thornhill Road between the junctions for Streetly Lane and Chester Road. On the northbound 104 were caught, 66 in the southbound.

Second on the list of roads was A4098 Great Bridge Road

in Darlaston, between the Midland Metro railway bridge and the A41, where 89 drivers were snapped northbound, 63 southbound.

Darlaston South Councillor Doug James says the road, he claims is used as a rat run, has long been a spot for speeding motorists. He said: "We have been blighted by speeding motorists in the Darlaston area and have been calling for more enforcement. I'm delighted with these figures because they show the police are doing something in response to our calls. What I want now is more work into technology to stop speeding motorists."

On the A4041 Queslett Road in Pheasey, near to Halleswell Grove, 102 drivers were caught.

On Stubbers Green Road in Aldridge, between Brook

Meadow Road and Wharf Approach, 58 motorists were caught, while on the Walsall Wood Road, also in Aldridge, between Lazy Hill Road and Little Aston Road, 62 were snared.

And at a former static camera location on the A461 Lichfield Road in Walsall Wood, near Brooklands Road, six were snapped. The figures, which came from a Freedom of Information Act request to West Midlands Police, also revealed mobile cameras were being positioned at the sites of the turned-off static cameras.

Instead, the force uses 160 mobile camera sites. Although talks are underway over potentially bringing in average speed cameras in the Black Country following a successful trial in Solihull and Birmingham.

## Mental health services in focus with open day

A BLACK Country NHS Trust is inviting the public to find out more about their mental health services.

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust staff at The Elms Centre Slade Road, Halesowen, will be opening their doors on Monday, for a special event from 10am until 4pm.

Attendees will have the opportunity to drop in throughout the day and find out about the range of services available to young people including eating disorders, ADHD/ASD, psychiatry, family therapy, psychology and speech and language therapy.

Jackie Alexander, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Pan Trust Manager, said: "The event is open to young people, families and professionals that work with children and young people."

For more information contact [susan.thomas35@nhs.net](mailto:susan.thomas35@nhs.net)

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## Mortars destroyed as bomb site made safe

BOMB disposal experts carried out a further controlled explosion after hundreds of mortar shells were found on a Burntwood building site.

A 200m (656ft) cordon was in place on Friday with a warning issued by Staffordshire Police after the explosives were disposed of. The shells,

which were unexploded, were found on the site near Milestone Way, in Chase-town, on Thursday.

Members of the public were advised to stay away from the area, near a Morrisons supermarket.

Staffordshire Police confirmed by 3.50pm on Friday that all the muni-

tions had either been removed or detonated safely on site.

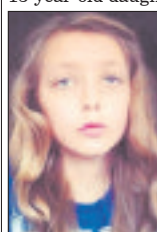
The mortars had been gathered in containers by expert officials.

The land had been once occupied by ES Smith, a company which stored war debris throughout the 1940s and 1950s.

## Volunteering helps tragedy-hit mother find a new purpose

A BEREAVED mother has opened up about how volunteering has given her a purpose since her teenage daughter's death.

Shelley Whale, from Pelsall, joined the Newlife volunteer team just over a year ago, four years after sustaining a brain injury in a car accident during a journey to school at Walsall Academy that sadly also took the life of her 13-year-old daughter, Natasha.



Natasha Whale

After the crash in 2014, she was unable to walk at first and struggled with her memory, co-ordination, feeding and dressing herself.

Shelley has spoken out after the tragedy about how she has managed to cope through volunteering for Newlife, a charity for disabled children based in Cannock.

She goes there once a week to de-label clothes donated from high-street stores which are then sold in one of the six Newlife stores to generate revenue, which helps fund equipment for disabled and terminally ill children across the UK.

### Injury

Shelley said: "After the accident I needed a purpose. Volunteering for Newlife made me feel worthwhile, like I had something to give - that I mattered and I could contribute."

"Before the accident I worked in a school kitchen and stacked shelves, but as well as losing the sight in my left eye I also have a brain injury, so my memory is not what it used to be. The team at Newlife worked with me to see what I could do and give me harder things to do when I need them so I can progress."

"Volunteering has given me a brighter outlook for the future and improved my confidence. Working to identify labels and cut them out has also helped me physically and it is definitely the best thing I could have done for my mental health."



Shelley Whale, from Walsall, says volunteering has given her a purpose



The scene of the coach and car crash on Valley Road, in February 2014

According to research by the Office for National Statistics, 11.9 million people volunteer in the UK each month, but the number of hours actually being donated is declining.

But Newlife is bucking the trend with their volunteer hours increasing by 2,000 in the last 12 months and increasing from 10,000 to 26,000 over the past three years.

Volunteering is thought to help battle depression, reduce blood pressure and get people more physically active. Joyce Moore, aged 72, from Can-

nock, also volunteers for Newlife and said it has helped her since the death of her husband, Michael. Mrs Moore said: "One of my friends spent months persuading me to volunteer for Newlife."

"Now I try to persuade all my friends to go. Volunteering was the best thing for me. I was feeling quite low and it got me out of myself."

"Volunteering means a lot to me now, it has given me a bigger life and a new sense of purpose. It is something everyone should try."

## Liam is on list for top celebrity dad MP backs call on free prescriptions

HE welcomed his first child into the world with girlfriend Cheryl last year - now Liam Payne has been nominated for a Celebrity Dad of The Year award.

The 24-year-old from Bushbury in Wolverhampton, joins the likes of Prince William, Rio Ferdinand, Anthony Joshua and Simon Cowell on the shortlist.

The former One Direction star has protected his son, one-year old Bear, from the press, with few glimpses of him on social media.

He has called fatherhood

'the most amazing experience' and gives full credit to 34-year-old Cheryl for being such a good mother. He said last month: "I'm very very fortunate that I have such a supportive woman in Cheryl at home, and a beautiful mum for my child as well."

On his son's his first birthday in March, while he was away working in Tokyo, the singer shared a heartwarming picture of him and Bear holding hands on Instagram, captioned: "Can't believe my little man is one today?"

A MIDLAND MP has backed calls to extend free prescriptions to everyone in England with a long-term health condition.

Eleanor Smith said she was concerned that not everyone with a long-term condition in England was entitled to free prescriptions, despite a new report indicating that such a move would save the NHS money.

The report, commissioned by Parkinson's UK and Crohn's and Colitis UK, said there would be thousands of fewer A&E and GP visits

if the NHS extended free prescriptions just to people with Parkinson's and Inflammatory Bowel Disease. The Wolverhampton South West MP said: "This is an extremely important report, highlighting the injustice to so many people with long-term conditions in England. The NHS has a list of conditions that exempt people from paying prescriptions, but this hasn't been updated since 1968. I am committed to ensuring people with long-term conditions are treated fairly."



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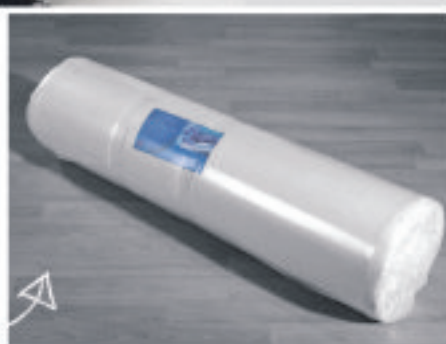
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# HomeServe profits soar as US business booms

**HOMESERVE**, the Walsall-based household repairs group, has revealed record profits growth boosted by a strong performance in North America.

While customer numbers have remained stable in the UK, at around 2.2 million, in the US they soared by 20 per cent to 3.6 million.

It helped push group revenue up 15 per cent to almost £900 million for the financial year to the end of March, while pre-tax profits jumped 25 per cent to £123.3 million.

Founder and chief executive Richard Harpin said: "This has been another great year for HomeServe, with record profit growth and another step change in our growth in North America."

The company, which employs around 1,100 at its Green Lane headquarters in Walsall, also completed its takeover of Checkatrade during the year in a £54m deal – part of its development of an online, on-demand Home Experts marketplace.

HomeServe offers insurance repairs for everything from burst pipes and broken boilers to dodgy wiring and faulty fridges and jammed locks. It works in partnership with utility businesses such as water companies, offering its services to their customers.

In North America adjusted operating profit more than doubled, up 146 per cent to \$64.4m. In the UK, however, adjusted operating profit slipped back by £2.1m to £61.1m as the business invested to increase efficiency and expanding its operations in heating and its LeakBot digital leak detector.

Meanwhile, it saw double digit growth in both its French and Spanish operations.



HomeServe employs nearly 3,300 people in the UK, a third of them in Walsall

Back in Britain, the company has confirmed that Martin Bennett, the chief executive of its HomeServe UK business, will step down from the board at the AMG on July 20 and leave the business later in the year.

Company chairman Barry Gibson said: "On behalf of the board I would like to take this opportunity to thank Martin for his service to HomeServe. "Martin has made an outstanding

contribution to HomeServe over the last 15 years, and in particular since his appointment to the board in 2009, first as chief financial officer and latterly as UK CEO.

"Our recent reorganisation to create four global business lines gave Martin the opportunity to consider his next move, and we respect his decision to move on. We all wish him well for the future."

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# Peace and love reigns at homecoming concert



It was a triumphant homecoming for Peace in Birmingham with a full house at the O2 Academy 2 venue Photo by Jonnie Craig

**Peace, O2 Academy, Birmingham**  
ON the title track of the new Peace album frontman Harry Koisser sings 'Kindness Is The New Rock 'n' Roll', but the old rock 'n' roll remains exhilarating when performed by this band of adopted Brummies.

On the final night of a 15-date UK tour to launch their third album, it was a triumphant homecoming for the ferocious four playing their psychedelic-tinged guitar rock to a full house at a hot and heaving O2 Academy 2.

The smaller room added to the atmosphere and may have reminded long term fans of those early days in Digbeth when the Worcestershire band set the city abuzz with their

weaving guitars and Koisser's Bolan-like quavering vocals on their songs about 'lovesick losers'.

On a stage bedecked with flowers, Peace reigned supreme and there was plenty of love from them from the crowd, moshing from the off when Koisser and co opened up with fans' favourites Ocean's Eye and Bloodshake.

In fact, they had been seen on stage earlier when they launched their own backstage invasion of the set by main support act Whenyoung to sing-along with the promising Irish trio, dressed in that band's favoured boiler suits. Nice flossing skills by Peace guitarist Doug Castle!

Peace's 90-minute set featured lots of songs from all three albums. Highlights included their latest anthem Power, savage versions of Money and I'm A Girl, swaggering rocker Shotgun

Hallelujah, the soaring sonic delight of Higher Than The Sun, plus impressive new songs Silverlined and Kindness Is The New Rock 'n' Roll.

Harry in jeans and a silk red shirt (or was it a pyjama top?) was flanked by Doug and his brother Sam on bass, with drummer Dom Boyce sat behind propelling the sound. Harry was in a mood to chat between songs and even invited 17-year-old fan Ed up on stage to celebrate his birthday.

He also performed a new version of old favourite Perfect Skin, on introducing California Daze revealed that it had been written a stone's throw from the venue and gave a gorgeous solo rendition of Float Forever.

It ended where it began for Peace, with their indie rock classic Lovesick. Peace and Love, the perfect combination.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

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Features include: volume control, headphone jack, LCD screen, power saving sleep mode, record button, 12 demonstration songs, microphone, 128 timbres, percussions, adjustable tempo, built-in speakers, 128 rhythms, auto bass chord. Keyboard measures: L85 x W32.7 x H24.8cm. Weighs: 3.24kg.

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# Join last voyage of 'unsinkable ship'

**H**e started off in Walsall. But theatrical director Thom Southerland has created one of the biggest theatrical productions of the year with Titanic. As a child, the daring and ambitious former pupil of Barr Beacon School used to watch productions at Birmingham's Hippodrome.

And on Monday he'll return to the Hippodrome for a week-long run with Titanic: The Musical, which ends on June 9.

In the final hour of April 14, 1912, the RMS Titanic, on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, collided with an iceberg and 'the unsinkable ship' slowly sank. It was one of the most tragic and infamous disasters of the 20th century. A total of 1,517 men, women and children lost their lives.

Based on real people aboard the most legendary ship in the world, Maury Yeston and Peter Stone's stunning musical focuses on their hopes and aspirations. Unaware of the fate that awaits them, the Third Class immigrants dream of a better life in America, the newly-enfranchised Second Class dream of achieving the lifestyles of the rich and famous, and the millionaire Barons of the First Class dream of their mastery lasting forever.

Thom, a former Express & Star paper boy who delivered newspapers to top up his pocket money, explains: "The musical started life in New York. A composer-lyricist had the idea to do a musical retelling of The Titanic – and most people thought that was the worst idea ever. How could we make a musical of one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century?"

"But it is incredible. I heard the score on a CD. It had never been to the UK. The music is not about a ship. It's about the people who were on it."

The musical has been around the world during the past five years, growing each time.

"I can't be more happy than to think this show is touring the UK. It's our story and our legend; so many people that associate with it or are fascinated with it. It's because of the people and the stations and everything that people identify with."

The Hippodrome was where it all began for Thom. He was born in Walsall and went there as a kid to watch pantomimes and musicals. "This is the first time one of my shows will head to the Hippodrome. It wells me up when I think about it. I was born in Walsall, went to Barr Beacon School and we had a teacher, Mr Daniels, who would put on school plays. The teachers would let us act and that encouraged me so much."

He went to the theatre as well, in addition to classes for drama. Since then, his work has gone to America and Japan – but never Birmingham.

"When I was in Walsall, I did acting stuff. Then because I didn't think I was good enough to do that professionally, I desperately wanted to be part of it so I turned to directing."

"I remember going to see a show at the Hippodrome with my grandma and she'd say 'it's beautiful music' and I realised there was more than one way to do it. I went and studied as a director and I've just been very fortunate."

When Thom trained as a director, he was always interested in musical theatre. He wanted to redefine the genre, moving away from big, epic shows to ones where the story was at the heart of things.

"Musicals can get a bad rep



The greatest tragedy – Titanic: The Musical tells the tale

for being cheesey or old fashioned or not as worthy as plays that are in Stratford-upon-Avon. But I said there's no reason why you can't take a musical as seriously as the RSC."

So he started to put on his own shows in very, very small theatres, meeting the bills with his credit card. Instead of shows playing the London Palladium, he took them to 50-seat theatres and asked actors to play their own instruments.

The rest is history and Thom has become a hot property.

"With Titanic, there was these huge sets they tried to replicate what the titanic looked like. We don't need to see it anymore. So when we see the musical, we see things you don't know. It's all about telling the story. There's no need, like James Cameron did, to make bits up and make fake love affairs up. There was 2,500 people on the ship – you don't have to make it up because those people were all living, breathing human beings who had fascinating stories of their own."

"I always tell the actors when I'm working on it. For half of the show, you

*The music is not about a ship. It's about the people who were on it*

think you are going to live a new life in a new world. They were aboard the largest moving object in the world, which was also the most glamorous and luxurious. They were experiencing the happiest day of their life.

"Everybody who worked there or who had bought a ticket were thrilled. The Titanic was monumental, the best in the world. They had all achieved."

"And then only four days later, they met their fate in the middle of the north Atlantic, through nobody's fault, in my humble opinion. Our job is to pay tribute to the people who sailed in her and understand what she was supposed to do and supposed to represent. Then to lay testament to the people who sailed in her. It's a disrespect to the people who lost their lives to make up fake love stories."

"Personally, I don't think you can comprehend the hugeness of the tragedy unless you bring it down to a parallel, the experience of one human being. Just as we can't understand the horrors of Nazi Germany but we can understand the diary of Anne Frank."

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.





The Lady Boys of Bangkok



## Oh boy! It's a saucy start to June at the Grand

DREAMBOYS and Lady Boys add up to a memorable series of one-off concerts at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre to get June off to a saucy start.

Joined by celebrity Jake Quickenden (from The X Factor, I'm A Celebrity... and Dancing On Ice), The Dreamboys strut their stuff on Wednesday (June 6).

Then cabaret favourites The Lady Boys of Bangkok bring their glamour to the Grand on June 7 with their Wonder Women Tour. The glitzy show features the Lady Boys' tributes to Cher, Diana Ross, Shirley Bassey, Lady Gaga and Wonder Woman herself.

Before those shows, more traditional old fashioned fun can be seen at the Lichfield Street venue for three performances from Monday to Tuesday in A Grand

Music Hall. Hosted by the Grand's regular panto dame Ian Adams, the variety show features actor Keith Minshull, pianist Guy Rowland, illusionists Van Buren and Allyson, singer Julie Paton and, topping the bill, former Crackerjack and Good Morning Sunday host Don Maclean. There will be prizes for the best 'Good Old Days' costumes.

More nostalgia on Saturday (June 9) when the swing era is recalled with the music of The Glenn Miller Orchestra. The show also features the Moonlight Serenaders, the Swing Time Jivers and the Polka Dots with their tribute to the Andrews Sisters. That will certainly get you 'In The Mood' for some 40s favourites. For more details see grandtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01902 429212.

## Her heart in Havana – her gig is in Brum



CHART-TOPPING singer Camila Cabello is hitting the road for her first solo tour.

Cabello's Never Be The Same tour follows the immediate success of her self-titled debut album. She will headline Birmingham's O2 on Wednesday (June 6). The Cuban-American singer and songwriter rose to fame as a member of the girl group Fifth Harmony, which was formed during the second season of The X Factor US in 2012. She began to establish herself as a solo artist with the release of several collaborations, including Bad Things with Machine Gun Kelly,

which reached number four on the US Billboard Hot 100.

After leaving Fifth Harmony in December 2016, she released the solo single Crying in the Club. Refocusing her sound to Latin-influenced music, her eponymous debut studio album Camila (2018) entered at number one on the US Billboard 200, supported by its lead single Havana, which topped the charts in several countries, including the UK and the US.

She said the success of Havana was empowering: "I think it really gave me a certain buzz of confidence. When you're a new solo artist, people are kind of

scared to do stuff that's different because they just want to go with what's already being played on the radio. They want to stick to the formula.

"We didn't even release 'Havana' as a single because no one believed in it enough. They were like 'Oh that's a cool song but it's definitely not what you want as a single from your album.' So when it worked, I was like, 'Nobody really knows anything, so you might as well go with what you love.' It was super-validating. It taught me this huge lesson of going with what you feel and you like."

## Jane sails in for sell out shows

Singer and TV presenter Jane McDonald will be playing to full houses when she entertains at Birmingham's New Alexander Theatre next Friday (June 8) and returns to the region at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on September 23. She found fame as a cruise ship singer in reality TV show The Cruise and is celebrating 20 years since she first sailed onto our screens. Now the Wakefield warbler is celebrating winning a Bafta for Channel 5 travel show Cruising with Jane McDonald.



## It is going to be a hit, man, all over again

Agent 47 is put to the test in HITMAN: Definitive Edition (18), as Danish studio IO Interactive celebrates its 20th anniversary by bringing together the original award-winning video game with all of its previously released content and updates. It also includes new disguises for the stealthy assassin anti-hero which pay tribute to some of their other popular titles. The ICA agent, a Mark Strong look-alike, has exotic locations to choose from in Europe, Africa, America and the Far East as he hones his skills on missions to find and eliminate various targets. Warner Bros have taken on the title, which has a similar feel to their Batman franchise with emphasis on sneaking and surprise. An internet connection is needed as not all the add-ons are pre-loaded on the disc. It is available for Xbox One and PlayStation 4.

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CHOICE



Gareth Southgate

**Live International Football (ITV, 5pm)**  
England v Nigeria (Kick-off 5.15pm). Coverage of the friendly encounter at Wembley Stadium, where both sides continue their preparations for this month's World Cup. England have just this match and one against Costa Rica to play before they fly out to Russia, where they will begin their campaign against Tunisia on June 18th. Gareth Southgate has named a relatively inexperienced squad for the finals, but will be using this fixture to assess his options, while Nigeria also have the World Cup to look forward to, and group fixtures against Argentina, Croatia and Iceland. Mark Pougatch presents, with commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Glenn Hoddle.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairys Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Athletics: Diamond League Rome Highlights. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Warrington Wolves v Wigan Warriors (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.35** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.20** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.50** BBC News.  
**6.00** **Regional Programme.**  
**6.05** **Film: Shrek 2.** (2004) The grouchy ogre and his new wife Princess Fiona set out on a journey to meet her parents. However, the king and queen are less than impressed with their daughter's choice of husband, while a conniving fairy godmother is determined to make sure her own son gets to marry the princess. Animated adventure sequel, with the voices of Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, Eddie Murphy, Antonio Banderas, John Cleese, Julie Andrews, Jennifer Saunders and Rupert Everett.  
**7.30** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a Radio 2-themed edition, with contestants including Jo Whalley, Jeremy Vine, Zoe Ball, Michael Ball and Ken Bruce. (R)  
**8.20** **Casualty.** Alicia struggles to process the events of her night with Eddie, and collapses after refusing to take a break. Just as she starts to tell Ethan about her problems, Elle interrupts.  
**9.10** **All Round to Mrs Brown's.** Mrs Brown's Boys creator, writer and star Brendan O'Carroll dons Agnes's famous cardigan and curlers once again, throwing open the doors of the larger-than-life Irish matriarch's home to host the Saturday night chat show, filmed in front of a live studio audience. Joining in the fun this time around are musical duo Sting & Shaggy, This Morning's resident chef and star of Celebrity Juice Gino D'Acampo, Loose Women presenter Christine Lampard, and Dragons' Den stalwarts Peter Jones and Deborah Meaden.  
**10.10** **BBC News:** Weather.; National Lottery Update.  
**10.30** **Film: Meet the Fockers.** (2004) Comedy sequel, with Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro.  
**12.20** The Button. (R) **12.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.55** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.15** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.05** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Dengineers. **8.00** Absolut Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **8.30** Beyond Bionic. **9.00** Steve Backshall v the Monster Mountain. (R) **10.00** Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** SAS: Rogue Warriors. (R) **1.00** The World According to Kids. (R) **2.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.30** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **3.30** Love in the Countryside. (R) **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.20** Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In? (R)  
**6.20** **The Forest.** The Galloway Hills Rally draws crowds of visitors to the park, while tree planter Alastair Livingstone restocks a recently felled site with sycamore and oak. (R)  
**6.50** **Dad's Army.** Walmington-on-Sea leaves its mark on a visiting French general when the platoon repaints Lady Matby's Rolls-Royce just in time for an official engagement. (R)  
**7.20** **Film: Ladies in Lavender.** (2004) The lives of two elderly spinster sisters are thrown into turmoil when a handsome Polish castaway washes up on the shore by their Cornish home and reawakens long-dormant yearnings and memories. Period drama directed by Charles Dance, starring Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Daniel Bruhl, Miriam Margolyes, Natascha McElhone and Freddie Jones.  
**9.00** **Nothing Like a Dame.** Eileen Atkins, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright and Maggie Smith let the cameras in on a friendship that goes back more than half a century. Coming together for a weekend at the country retreat Dame Joan once shared with her husband Laurence Olivier, the acting greats discuss their lives and careers, reminisce about their humble beginnings in the theatre, and reflect on love and loss.  
**10.30** **All Girls Live at the Apollo.** A female-only special of the comedy show in which leading performers from the stand-up circuit entertain a packed house at London's Hammersmith Apollo.  
**11.15** **Later Weekend with Jools Holland.**  
**12.15** **Film:** Quartet. (2012) **1.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITY: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball On Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Little Big Shots. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing Live: The Derby. Including coverage of the 4.30 Investec Derby. **5.00** Live International Football. England v Nigeria (Kick-off 5.15pm).  
**7.30** **ITV News:** Weather.  
**7.45** **Regional Programme:** Weather.  
**8.00** **The British Soap Awards 2018.** Phillip Schofield presents coverage of the event from London's Hackney Empire, featuring awards including Best Actor, Best Actress, Villain of the Year, Best Comedy Performance, Best Newcomer, Best Single Episode and Best Storyline. The Outstanding Achievement award will be presented to a long-standing member of the soap community, while one of Coronation Street, Doctors, EastEnders, Emmerdale and Hollyoaks will take home the coveted Best British Soap gong.  
**10.05** **ITV News:** Weather.  
**10.20** **International Football Highlights.** England v Nigeria. The key moments from the friendly international at Wembley Stadium, which was a vital one for Gareth Southgate's men in preparation for the World Cup.  
**11.15** **Film: Rocky.** (1976) A struggling boxer gets an unexpected shot at taking on the heavyweight champion of the world. Oscar-winning drama, starring Sylvester Stallone, Burgess Meredith and Carl Weathers.  
**1.30** **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. Harry pushes ahead with plans for the Selfridge Estate, aiming to buy a field at auction, but an unexpected rival bidder poses a threat. Miss Mardie makes her mark in fashion. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

CHANNEL 4

**6.00** Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.30** Motor Sport: British GT. **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.50** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.20** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.50** Frasier. (R) **9.20** Frasier. (R) **9.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.25** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **5.30** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R)  
**6.30** **Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00** **Film: Iron Man 2.** (2010) Tycoon-turned-superhero Tony Stark confronts a fearsome new foe in a Russian scientist using his own deadly hi-tech weapons to seek revenge. He also faces a struggle to keep his secrets out of the hands of both the government and an amoral rival, and discovers the armour he developed to fight evil is slowly killing him. Action adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr and Don Cheadle.  
**9.20** **Live International Rugby Union.** South Africa v Wales (Kick-off 10.00pm). Lee McKenzie presents coverage of the international fixture, staged at the RFK Stadium in Washington, DC. Wales move on to South America following this match for a two-Test tour of Argentina, and will be looking to improve on their recent record against the Springboks. With analysis from Ryan Jones, Ugo Monye and Thinus Delpoit, and reports from Sam Warburton, Alun Wyn Jones, Ken Owens and Jonathan Davies.  
**12.15** **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** Part two of two. Gordon Ramsay gives the owners of La Galleria 33 an ultimatum. (R) **1.05** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Ste is furious to learn that Leah has sold a story to a gossip magazine, while an old foe turns up in the village making financial demands. (R) **3.20** Building the Dream. Charlie Luxton heads to Cornwall to help serial renovators Neil and Suzie with a contemporary build that is not just set to be very grand, but Suzie wants it finished by Christmas. (R) **4.15** My Kitchen Rules. Harrogate best friends Anna and Charlie pose a health-conscious restaurant. (R) **5.10** Jamie's Comfort Food. Gemaro Contalado helps Jamie Oliver make bolognese ravioli. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.50** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.05** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.05** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.05** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **5.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)  
**6.05** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Sheriff Paul Bohill tackles the case of a small debt owed by ex-footballer Neil Ruddock, before being forced to evict a school dinner lady in south London. (R)  
**6.55** **5 News Weekend.**  
**7.00** **Cricknet on 5.** England v Pakistan. Action from the second day of the Second Test in the two-match series, which took place at Emerald Headingley Stadium. Commentary and analysis is provided by Michael Vaughan, Mark Nicholas, Geoff Boycott, Alison Mitchell, Sourav Ganguly and Charles Dagnall.  
**8.00** **Queen Victoria and Her Tragic Family.** The series concludes with a look at the queen's efforts to control her children's personal lives, arranging a marriage for Princess Louise to a gay Scottish lord and refusing to let Prince Leopold to pursue an education at Oxford owing to his ill health – which he had already passed on to his children. The programme also examines how Princess Beatrice got married against her mother's will and the arrival of Indian servant Abdul Karim in the royal household. Last in the series.  
**9.00** **Elizabeth I: Death of a Dynasty.** The drama-documentary examines the Tudor queen's rousing speech at Tilbury, her decline into old age, and the Earl of Essex's betrayal. Last in the series. (R)  
**10.00** **Agatha Christie's Crooked House.** Adaptation of the mystery novel, starring Max Irons and Terence Stamp. A man returning to London from Cairo investigates the poisoning of his fiancée's grandfather. (R)  
**11.05** **5 News Update.**  
**11.10** **Agatha Christie's Crooked House.** Adaptation of the mystery novel, starring Max Irons. (R)  
**12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** **Film:** The Cabin in the Woods. (2012)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** The Burrowers: Animals Underground **8.00** Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.50** Sicily: Wonder of the Mediterranean **11.50** Top of the Pops: 1985 **12.50** Kate Bush at the BBC **1.50** Hot Chocolate at the BBC **2.50** How to Get Ahead: At Renaissance Court **3.50** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.05** Britain's Got Talent **12.40** Britain's Got Talent Results **1.05** Ninja Warrior UK **2.10** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.10** **Film:** Red Riding Hood (2011) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15** **Film:** Red Riding Hood (2011) **5.20** **Film:** The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30** **Film:** The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **8.00** **Film:** The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10** **Film:** The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) **10.40** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.40** CelebAbility **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**2.45** **Film:** Columbo: By Dawn's Early Light (1974) **4.50** Lewis **7.00** Endeavour **11.00** A Touch of Frost **1.15** On the Buses **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**9.00** Isle of Man TT **10.00** **Film:** Platoon (1986) **11.10** FYI Daily **11.15** **Film:** Platoon (1986) **12.25** **Film:** This Is the End (2013) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35** **Film:** This Is the End (2013) **2.35** Football Rivalries **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.00** The Goldbergs **1.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** Young Sheldon **1.55** **Film:** The Core (2003) **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Speed (1994) **11.20** Gogglebox **1.25** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **2.30** Rude Tube **3.25** Gogglebox **4.15** Rude(ish) Tube **4.40** How I Met Your Mother  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Rugrats in Paris: The Movie (2000) **1.00** Epic (2013) **3.05** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **4.45** Dr Dolittle 2 (2001) **6.35** Beautiful Creatures (2013) **9.00** The Other Woman (2014) A woman discovers her boyfriend is married, and joins forces with his wife and a third lover to get revenge. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann and Kate Upton. **11.10** The Grassy Strangler (2016) Premiere. Comedy horror, starring Michael St Michaels. **1.00** The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2 (1986) **3.10** Close

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## CHOICE



Frankie Boyle

**Frankie Goes to Russia (BBC2, 9pm)**

Part one of two. Frankie Boyle explores Russia in advance of the World Cup, looking at what lies behind national stereotypes and exploring the country's football culture. In the first episode, he visits the seaside town hosting the England team and a city renowned for football-related violence. He also joins a daredevil motorbike football team, records a world cup rap, and meets the sabre-wielding Cossacks policing the World Cup stadiums.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Garden Rescue. (R) **2.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Britain's Best Home Cook. (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

**6.35 BBC News.****6.50 Regional Programme.**

**7.00 Countryfile.** A special episode from the royal family's Balmoral estate. Matt Baker visits Glamis castle, ancestral seat of the Queen Mother, while Ellie Harrison explores Ballochbuie Forest and goes in search of wood grouse and a royal stag.

**8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public.

**9.00 A Very English Scandal.** Hugh Grant and Ben Whishaw star in the conclusion of Russell T Davies' drama based on the true story of the downfall of political leader Jeremy Thorpe. Norman survives a bungled attempt on his life, and publicly accuses Jeremy of having hired the would-be killer to silence him – an act which finally brings their secret relationship into the public eye for the first time. With the world watching, the ensuing court case drags years of acrimony between the two men into the light, as a man who would be prime minister stands trial for conspiracy to murder. Last in the series.

**10.00 BBC News.****10.20 Regional Programme.**

**10.30 Imagine – Margaret Atwood: You Have Been Warned!** Alan Yentob meets the Canadian author in Toronto to discover how a childhood spent between the wilderness and the city helped shape her vision of herself and the world. (R)

**11.35 Film: Up in the Air.** (2009) A corporate downsizing expert finds his emotionally detached lifestyle under threat from an executive with revolutionary ideas. Comedy drama, with George Clooney and Vera Farmiga.

**1.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.20** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **11.45** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **12.45** Wanted Down Under. (R) **1.30** Live Rowing World Cup. **3.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

**6.00 Dragons' Den.** More entrepreneurs present their money-making ideas to the panelists, including pitches for natural raw dog food, a date-based smoothie and a free-running exercise regimen. (R)

**7.00 Million Pound Menu.** Fred Sirieix presents the fine dining challenge which follows people who work in the food business as they seek major investment to launch their own restaurants. (R)

**8.00 Journey in the Danger Zone: Iraq.** Part one of two. Former soldier Adnan Sarwar enters the country to see how it has changed since he was last there as part of the occupying force in 2003.

**9.00 Frankie Goes to Russia.** Part one of two. Frankie Boyle explores Russia in advance of the World Cup, beginning with a visit to the seaside town hosting the England team and a city renowned for violence.

**10.00 Atlanta.** A rival rapper steals the spotlight from Paper Boi at a charity basketball event, and Earn spots a chance to raise his professional profile when he is mistaken for someone else.

**10.20 Atlanta.** Van is irritated by her successful old friend Jayde, but the pair find a way to put aside their differences while smoking weed – until Van remembers she is due a drug test at work.

**10.45 Live at the Apollo.** Glaswegian comedian Frankie Boyle takes to the stage at London's Hammersmith Apollo, and introduces rising stars Jack Carroll and Holly Walsh. (R)

**11.15 Film: The Spectacular Now.** (2013) A teenage loner bonds with a drunken classmate who helps her create a new persona for herself to boost her confidence. Drama, starring Miles Teller.

**12.45** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.45** Holby City. (R) **2.45** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball On Sunday. **9.25** Countrywise: Secret Wild Places. (R) **10.25** Film: Casino Royale. (1967) **1.00** ITV News: Weather. **1.10** Film: St Trinian's. (2007) Comedy, starring Rupert Everett. **3.00** Tenable. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.00** Celebrity Catchphrase. (R)

**6.00** ITV News: Weather. **6.15** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.30** The Chase: Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as Westlife's Nicky Byrne, Olympian Amy Williams, Natalie Cassidy (EastEnders' Sonia Jackson) and Dave Myers of The Hairy Bikers pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught. (R)

**7.30 Britain's Got Talent Final.** Declan Donnelly hosts the live final of the nationwide talent search as the 12th series draws to a climax. A wide variety of acts have stepped in front of judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and David Walliams eager to impress, and tonight the last remaining contestants will be putting in one last performance to earn the votes of the viewing public and get the chance to be crowned champion, win £250,000 and take to the stage in a coveted slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance. Last in the series.

**10.05** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Les Dawson Forever. A tribute to the life and career of the TV comedy star, with contributions by Barry Cryer, Rick Wakeman, Johnny Vegas, Lorraine Chase, Les's widow Tracy, and his daughter Charlotte. (R)

**12.10** Great Art. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **7.30** Eat the Week. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Film: Eragon. (2006) Fantasy adventure, starring Ed Speleers. **5.00** Film: Johnny English. (2003) Spy comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson.

**6.35** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Escape to the Chateau. Dick gets to work on the walled garden in the spring and buys a mini tractor for the job – but it may not fit through the gate. Angel designs another suite, with black walls and mosaic mirrors, and decorates the entire dining room with blossoms so a guest can make a special wedding proposal. The couple also consider the possibility of truffle farming. (R)

**8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals.** Liam Charles and Tom Allen present the halfway point of the patisserie contest, with the five remaining teams being challenged to prepare 24 opera slices and 24 exotic fruit roulades, before putting a modern spin on classic French pastry the religieuse. Judges Cherish Finden and Benoit Blin will then decide which duo is not going through to the next round.

**9.00 The Handmaid's Tale.** Offred reflects on her relationship with her mother as she navigates her way through Gilead. In Little America, Moira tries to cope with the trauma she endured.

**10.15 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers panel game, with Sean Lock joined by Johnny Vegas, and special guest captain Sarah Millican joining forces with Rob Beckett. (R)

**11.15 Naked Attraction.** Dating show hosted by Anna Richardson in which two singletons choose a date from a selection of six naked people, who will be revealed to them one body part at a time. (R)

**12.15 Film: The Other Boleyn Girl.** (2008) Historical drama, starring Natalie Portman and Scarlett Johansson. **2.10** Building the Dream. (R) **3.05** My Kitchen Rules. (R) **4.00** Gillette World Sport. **4.25** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **4.50** Food Unwrapped. (R) **5.10** Fifteen to One. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Moly. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Only the Little White Van. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.45** Rusty Rivets. **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.30** Noddy: Tronard Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Naughty Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **2.20** Naughty Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **3.20** Disobedient Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **4.20** Most Shocking Talent Show Moments. (R)

**7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v Pakistan. Action from the third day of the Second Test in the two-match series.

**7.55** 5 News Weekend. **8.00** The Unstoppable Flying Scotsman. During its lifetime, the Flying Scotsman has broken records, travelled the world, starred in a movie and even bankrupted its owners. Engineer Rob Bell presents the first of a two-part documentary charting the history of the world's most famous steam locomotive, looking at why it has inspired such affection among steam fans and still attracts huge crowds wherever it goes. (R)

**9.00 The Flying Scotsman: A Legend Reborn.** Part two of two. Rob Bell reveals how enthusiast Alan Pegler saved the locomotive when British Railways announced plans to scrap it in 1962. (R)

**10.00 Top of the Box 95: TV's Most Controversial Year.** The 20 highest rated TV shows of 1995, including One Foot in the Grave, Father Ted, Shooting Stars, Peak Practice, Brookside, and Martin Bashir's interview with Princess Diana.

**11.55 Best of Bad TV: The 00s.** TV gaffes of the 2000s, a decade that saw Gary Barlow trying to act, Edwina Currie performing a Wife Swap with John McCrick and someone taking a night pop at Danny Dyer. (R)

**1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Traffic Cops. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways **8.00** How to Build Britain's Secret Engineers **9.00** Normandy '44: The Battle Beyond D-Day **10.00** The Jeremy Thorpe Scandal **11.00** Amazon Abyss **12.00** Civilisations Stories: The Empire **12.30** Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways **1.30** How to Build Britain's Secret Engineers **2.30** Return to Larkeland **3.30** Close

**ITV2**

**11.45** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **12.50** FYI Daily **12.55** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **1.30** Film: Planet 51 (2009) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40** Film: Planet 51 (2009) **3.25** Film: Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30** Film: Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **5.30** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.30** FYI Daily **6.35** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.30** Film: Battleship (2012) **8.30** FYI Daily **8.35** Film: Battleship (2012) **10.05** Britain's Got Most Talent Live **11.05** Family Guy **1.00** American Dad! **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**

**11.05** Film: The Likely Lads (1976) **12.50** Film: Rising Damp (1980) **2.50** A Touch of Frost **4.50** Endeavour **7.00** Vera **9.00** Unforgotten **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.00** Blue Murder **2.20** Liverpool **1.30** Road to Avonlea **5.05** George and Mildred **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

**ITV4**

**9.00** Isle of Man TT **10.00** Cycling: Criticism du Dauphine Highlights **11.00** World Rugby U20 Championship Highlights **12.00** BRDC Formula 3 Highlights **1.00** Fifth Gear **2.00** Ax Men **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**12.25** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.55** Young Sheldon **1.25** The Big Bang Theory **6.15** Film: The Hunger Games (2012) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Gogglebox **11.00** Gogglebox Australia **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.00** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **2.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.00** Gogglebox Australia **3.50** Hollyoaks

**Film4**

**11.00** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012) **1.00** Ponyo (2008) **3.05** Tooth Fairy (2010) **5.10** Carry On Nurse (1959) **6.50** The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) **9.00** Last Vegas (2013) Comedy, starring Michael Douglas. **11.05** Prometheus (2012) Sci-fi thriller, starring Noomi Rapace. **1.30** The Paperboy (2012) **3.45** Close

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## FILM CHOICES

### MONDAY

#### Killer in Paradise, Channel 5, 3.20pm

While on a dream vacation with her husband, a woman becomes a target after she starts to suspect one of the island's locals may have committed multiple murders. Thriller, starring Jackie Moore, Barbie Castro, Brian Gross, Jordi Vilasuso, Brian Patrick Clarke and Jacy King. (2018)

### TUESDAY

#### Escaping Evil: Saving My Children, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Erin believes that she has left her Mob ties behind after being placed in a witness protection programme. However, the man she thought she had killed turns up under an assumed identity and bent on revenge, meaning she must protect her new life and her family. Thriller, starring Mia Kirshner and Paul McGillion. (2014)

### WEDNESDAY

#### Seduced by a Stranger, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A single mother's life is turned upside down when an international conman Martin to her neighbourhood. Thriller, starring Chandra West, Steve Bacic and Kate Sproule. (2017)



Bend It Like Beckham, Friday, ITV, 10.45pm

### THURSDAY

#### Girlfriend Killer, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A businesswoman who creates the perfect marriage proposals for wealthy men, becomes the target of a crazy client's obsession when she shows him compassion after his girlfriend publicly rejects him. Thriller, starring Dina Meyer, Corin Nemec and Barbie Castro. (2017)

### FRIDAY

#### Bend It Like Beckham, ITV, 10.45pm

An English schoolgirl tries to hide her passion for football from her strict Indian parents, knowing they disapprove of her tomboyish love of the game. However, when a semi-professional player sees her in action, she is offered a place on a team, forcing her to come up with a complex plan to keep her sporting career under wraps. Comedy, with Parminder Nagra, Keira Knightley, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Juliet Stevenson and Shaznay Lewis. (2002)

## Acclaimed drama makes a welcome return to the screen

Following a successful six-part first series, the acclaimed school drama, returns.

Set in a fictional Yorkshire mill town, Ackley Bridge follows the trials and tribulations at a new academy made up from two formerly isolated comprehensives – one predominantly white and the other Asian.

Predictably, the educational experiment in multiculturalism hasn't always gone to plan, and neighbours and best friends soon found themselves on different sides of a racial divide.

"Do they think they can keep us quiet with a lick of paint and some cr\*p about learning to live together?" the show's most entertaining if not likeable character Jordan memorably asked, after breaking into the school office.

As well as the whole education integration topic, there were plenty of other weighty topics covered in Ackley Bridge's first season.

Dubbed the new Waterloo Road and also drawing comparisons to

Shameless when it first aired, it got off to a bang with a girl posting a nude selfie of her mother online, while other subjects tackled included religious prejudice, bullying and a major death.

The second series gets under way tonight as, in a bid to disguise her sexuality, Nas (Amy-Leigh Hickman) agrees to a sham engagement with Naveed (Gurjeet Singh) – who is also in the closet.

However, as she reels from the discovery of a family secret, Nas struggles to continue the lie and emotions run high at the family engagement dinner.

Headmistress Mandy (Jo Joyner) is still under pressure from wealthy school sponsor and Head of Academy Trust, Sadiq (Adil Ray).

Both the Year 7 intake and exam results have plummeted, forcing her to instigate a strict academic regime that causes uproar among staff and students alike.

English teacher Emma (Liz White) and Mandy's friendship is tested when they clash over the decision

and Emma allows the students to protest.

Emma also has affairs of the heart to deal with, and on the day of Sami's (Arsher Ali) wedding, she struggles to hide her feelings for him.

Finally, Missy (Poppy Lee Friar) and Nas cause trouble for Jordan when they steal his drugs money. Will the cocky lad finally get his comeuppance?

Joining the cast for this new series is Kimberly Walsh.

The Girls Aloud singer, who has had small roles in Disney series The Lodge and Horrid Henry: The Movie, plays home-wrecking netball teacher Claire, who is also the ex-wife of Paul Nicholls' character Steve.

Walsh said: "It was so much fun appearing as Claire. It's a fantastic show with a brilliant cast. It was an honour to be part of it.

"Claire is quite different to other characters I've played in the past. She is sassy and strong and comes to blows a few times with Mandy, which was really fun to play."



Ackley Bridge, Wednesday, Channel 4, 8pm

## BEST OF THE REST

they encounter a local crime boss and a band of mercenaries in a village near the site where a group of school girls were abducted. 2 Section step in to help the local authorities track down the girls, but Georgie unwittingly places herself and her comrades in danger.

### WEDNESDAY Great Rail Restorations with Peter Snow Channel 4, 8pm

New series. Peter Snow and Henry Cole visit projects across the country where teams of restoration experts are attempting to restore historic railway carriages to their former glory. The first stop is the stunning Vale of Llangollen in North Wales, to visit a 1912 carriage designed by Sir Nigel Gresley, the creator of the Flying Scotsman, where Henry explores how the emergency cord was invented and learns how rail travellers coped before toilets were introduced on trains.

### Grenfell: The First 24 Hours ITV, 9pm

In the early hours of June 14, 2017, a blaze broke out at Grenfell Tower in west London, claiming 72

lives and injuring many others. ITV is marking the approach of the appalling tragedy's first anniversary with this moving documentary in which survivors recall the events of that terrible night, one that rocked not only the local community, but the entire country. The programme charts exactly what happened, from the first report of the fire to the London Fire Brigade getting it under control 24 hours later. Among those featured are residents Clarita Ghavini, who was found by a neighbour, and Sammy Wordy, who remains haunted by the screams of a woman trapped inside. There's also testimony from a firefighter who rescued nine people that night.

### THURSDAY Supershoppers Channel 4, 8pm

New series. The consumer advice show returns with Anna Richardson and Sabrina Grant providing the lowdown on

favourite brands and retailers, as well as tips on how to get the best deals. They begin with a look at retail giant John Lewis, investigating whether its famous price promise can always be trusted. There is also an undercover report from a major UK high-street chain catching sales staff giving shoppers suspect advice. Plus, reports on what goes into dairy-free milk drinks, supermarket value brands and which batteries last the longest.

### FRIDAY Cruising with Jane McDonald Channel 5, 9pm

For some people, this entertaining travelogue used to be something of a guilty pleasure, but now it's won a Bafta (the first in Channel 5's history), there's no need to hide your love of Jane McDonald any longer. And for newcomers who are wondering what all the fuss is about, this two-part special is the perfect place to start. It finds Jane exploring Australia and New Zealand, beginning with an open-top bus tour of Sydney and a trip to the Opera House, where she finds herself centre stage. Then it's on to Tasmania, where the presenter meets the staff and furry inhabitants of a wildlife sanctuary, before she heads to New Zealand and Milford Sound, which lives up to its billing as the wettest place on Earth.



Our Girl, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

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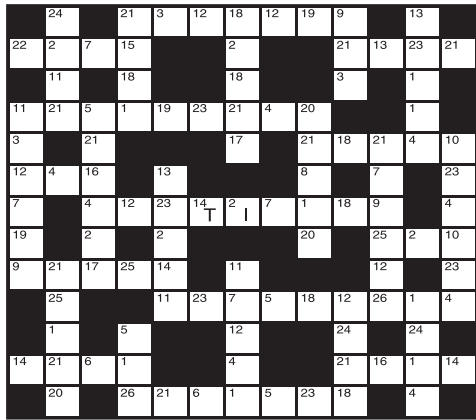


## BRAIN GYM

No.482

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
D	E	M	O	A	X	F	H	R	J	T	P	V
I	L	Q	Z	W	S	C	B	G	U	N	K	Y

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

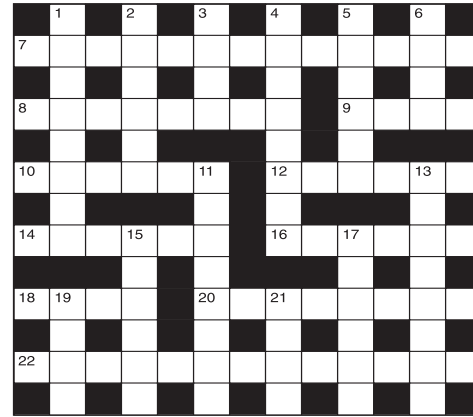
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

7. Marksmen who have meteoric careers? (8,5)
8. Insect with a lot to learn (8)
9. Where to put money to work (4)
10. Stays to give personal support (6)
12. Do real results come from such a testing experience? (6)
14. A wild horse on land (6)
16. Eagerly Len rummaged about in the locker (6)
18. Yet she may be a hit with the boys (4)
20. It's rash returning yet has some worth inside (8)
22. It offers protection to buyer and seller alike (7,6)

## Down

1. Find her with nothing on in beds, smoking them? (8)
2. They don't like gooseberries (6)
3. It's not evident the plaintiff has a quarrel (4)
4. Not a pretty sight on the face of things (4,4)
5. Tasted differently, it's said (6)
6. A test for which there is something to be said (4)
11. What scores of young people are in? (8)
13. Hub-hub (4-4)
15. Love duets freshly turned out (6)
17. Slips in proofs of humanity? (6)
19. A club with lofty aims (4)
21. This reminds me to go to the doctor (4)



## Quick Clues:

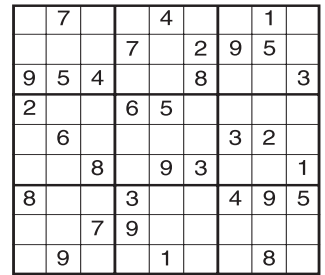
## Across

7. Scrupulous (13)
8. Valuer (8)
9. Portent (4)
10. Acrid (6)
12. Character (6)
14. Fault (6)
16. Mystery (6)
18. Close (4)
20. Amicable (8)
22. Dull (13)

## Down

1. Plot (8)
2. Aver (6)
3. Mental powers (4)
4. Gate (8)
5. Equip (3,3)
6. Entice (4)
11. Confirmed (8)
13. Disconnected (8)
15. Scope (6)
17. Catch fire (6)
19. Suspend (4)
21. Notion (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

9	2	1	7	5	8	4	3	6
6	8	3	4	9	2	5	7	1
5	7	4	6	1	3	9	8	2
7	5	8	3	2	9	1	6	4
3	6	2	1	4	7	8	5	9
4	1	9	8	6	5	7	2	3
2	3	5	9	7	1	6	4	8
1	4	7	2	8	6	3	9	5
8	9	6	5	3	4	2	1	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Ebbs; 8 The marines; 9 Playmate; 10 Sofa; 12 Moment; 14 Tremor; 15 Stream; 17 Castle; 18 Eric; 19 Tent-pegs; 21 Elasticity; 22 Sash. Down: 2 Bill-poster; 3 Stay; 4 Repeat; 5 Talent; 6 Minsters; 7 Asia; 11 Footlights; 13 Exercise; 16 Metric; 17 Candid; 18 Ewer; 20 Pays.  
QUICK - Across: 1 Feel; 8 Answer back; 9 Ladybird; 10 East; 12 Marine; 14 Devise; 15 Middle; 17 Sudden; 18 Snag; 19 Browbeat; 21 Mountebank; 22 Ekes. Down: 2 Excavation; 3 Lady; 4 Aspire; 5 Headed; 6 Observed; 7 Skit; 11 Sustenance; 13 Indigent; 16 Emblem; 17 Slogan; 18 Same; 20 Bake.

## Quiz

1. Who became South Africa's first executive state president in 1984?
2. Which increasingly-common medical condition is treated with a bronchodilator?
3. From which flower is orrisroot obtained?
4. Of which bird is the ptarmigan a variety?
5. Who is the Greek counterpart of the Roman goddess Pax?
6. Which school featured in a series of films by Frank Launder and Sidney Gilliat?
7. Who founded the Society of Friends?
8. When was the Domesday Book completed?
9. To which church do the Moonies belong?
10. Which choirboy had a hit with Walking In The Air?

## Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Santiago; 2 Greenpeace; 3 L Ron Hubbard; 4 England and Scotland; 5 John Grisham; 6 Lockjaw; 7 Ottorino Respighi; 8 Cyclades; 9 Elaine Paige; 10 Graham Greene.  
Niner: UNLATCHED

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4563123 gives a sorcerer,  
956167 gives a second sorcerer,  
274567823 gives a third sorcerer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



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# Star quality Ivy really grows on you

LAVISH doesn't come close. The new 155-seat, three-floor, The Ivy restaurant at Birmingham's Temple Row, which opened in April, is the acme of style.

Created by the group behind the world-famous celebrity haunt of the same name in London, it's been the most eagerly-anticipated restaurant opening in the Second City this year.

Leather banquettes in a dreamy shade of burnt orange mix with plenty of green palates and stunning Art Deco glass, lights and artwork to create a venue that's part-restaurant, part-art-installation. It is, in a word, stunning.

Oozing wow and housed in the former Louis Vuitton boutique, The Ivy has the same sort of luxury that the designer label provided, though without prohibitive prices. Sophisticated but relaxed, classy but informal, it's a real Bobby Dazzler that offers customers the sort of food that people like to eat – rather than pretentious dishes designed to impress.

## COMFORT

And so, for instance, the menu features such brilliant comfort food as The Ivy shepherd's pie – it's on my list for my next visit.

Prices are reasonable. Diners expecting to shell out the price of a top-class meal in London, will be surprised to find they can fork out just £21 for a three-course set menu. Expect accessible, brasserie-style eating with great value – but with added glitz and glamour.

With such glamour on every level, it's important that the staff provide service that sizzles. And, happily, they do. The venue offers an all-encompassing menu, serving British classics from dawn until dusk, including breakfast, elevenses, weekend brunch, lunch, afternoon tea, light snacks, dinner and cocktails.

Catch it if you can – the rare sesame-coated tuna



My partner and I ate on the second floor, taking a quiet corner seat where we had a view across part of the city and the rest of the dining area. It was stunning. As, indeed, was the food. She started with a tempura prawn number. It was delightful.

My starter was equally accomplished and offered dizzying flavour. A warm crispy duck salad.

Our mains were equally accomplished. She ate a whole grilled lobster with garlic and parsley butter, watercress and thick cut chips. My main was another classic; a seared Yellowfin tuna salad.

Convivial dining – in beautiful surroundings



We skipped dessert. Though the classic selection featuring crème brûlée and apple tart fine all read well, we'd got a date with a rock star on the other side of town and didn't want to be late. The Ivy did, however, do more than enough to persuade us to return. Classic dishes, plenty of choice, good skills from the kitchen, engaging service and decent prices were duly noted – though, in truth, it's the venue itself that has star quality.

The Ivy, in London, is one of Britain's great gastronomic institutions and looking to replicate the Covent Garden joint in Birmingham was no easy task.

The original has a near 100-year history and welcomed such guests as Sir Laurence Olivier and Sir John Gielgud, Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, Madonna, David and Victoria Beckham, Angelina Jolie, Dame Judi Dench, Sir Ian McKellen and James McAvoy.

The Birmingham one might not feature a cast quite so starry. Nonetheless, those behind the impressive launch can tick the box reading: Mission Accomplished. For The Ivy Birmingham is hands down the best new launch in the city in recent years.

ANDY RICHARDSON

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## Motown the Musical

If ever a musical genre lent itself to theatre, it was the mass harmonics and wall-of-sound dramatics of Motown. Motown the Musical is the story of Berry Gordy, a former Detroit car-worker living in an America riven by race riots, who scraped together a shoestring budget in 1959 to found a record label which became its own assembly-line of sensational hits.

Featuring 40 classic songs including My Girl, Stop! In The Name of Love, Dancing in the Street, I Heard It Through The Grapevine and Ain't No Mountain High Enough, this production won't disappoint.

### London Theatre Break

2 Days By Coach - Matinee

Departing Saturday 11 Aug

From Cannock, Walsall & Wolverhampton

### Price Includes...

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4-star outer London hotel with dinner and full English breakfast
- ✓ Motown the Musical theatre ticket - Grand Circle (matinee performance)
- ✓ Free time in London



★★★★

*"A lavish, slick, song-crammed show"*

Dominic Cavendish, The Telegraph

## The Tina Turner Musical

Nobody ever did storming, gyrating rock goddess like Tina Turner, one of the best-selling artists in history, whose rasping power vocal, tempestuous personal life and sheer survival instinct were just begging to be turned into a rock opera.

Well now it has been, in a show written by Olivier award-winning playwright Katori Hall and directed by the internationally acclaimed Phyllida Lloyd, and you can see it erupt onto the stage at London's Aldwych Theatre. With coach travel, hotel accommodation and free time in London, this isn't just a great deal – it's Simply the Best!

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Departing Saturday 11 Aug

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### Price Includes...

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- ✓ The Tina Turner Musical theatre ticket - Grand Circle (matinee performance)
- ✓ Free time in London



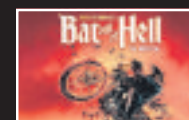
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Omega Holidays cannot be held responsible for the non-appearance of a particular actor/actress; no refunds will be given in this event. Whilst we always try to ensure that parties are seated together, very occasionally, it may be necessary for parties to be split. Couples are always seated together. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dbl/twin room. Single supplements apply.

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### Spacious detached house has been recently renovated

An exceptional and very spacious and recently renovated detached residence, 23 Somerford Place, Willenhall, is for sale through Skitts Premier at £300,000.

Its double-glazed accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, a large lounge, a dining room, a re-fitted kitchen, four bedrooms, a re-fitted shower room, a bathroom, garage, a block paved driveway and rear gardens.

In more detail the entrance door is protected by a porch. The entrance hall has a cloak cupboard off and stairs off to the first floor.

The shower room comprises a shower cubicle, low flush WC, a vanity wash hand basin, a heated towel rail and a tiled floor.

The lounge has the sun room leading off it and has a window to the rear. The sun room has windows to both the rear and side and doors to the garden. The dining room has windows to the front and side.

Being re-fitted, the kitchen has a range of wall and base cupboard units with work surfaces, a gas hob, an electric oven, plumbing for a dishwasher, a wall mounted boiler, a window to the rear and a door to the garage.

Upstairs, the landing has a loft hatch and a window to the front. Bedroom one has views over the frontage of the property, while bedroom two has an outlook over the rear garden. Bedroom three is positioned to the front, while bedroom four is positioned to the rear.

Having a suite including a free-standing bath with a hand-held shower attachment, the family bathroom also has a low flush WC, a vanity wash hand basin and a window to the rear.

Outside, the large enclosed rear garden comprises lawn, a gate to the front and a block paved patio area.

The garage has double doors to the front, a door to the rear, a window to the rear and loft space.

WILLENHALL £300,000



#### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Skitts Premier

TEL: 01902 631151

EMAIL: [willemhall@skitts.net](mailto:willemhall@skitts.net)

#### KEY FEATURES

Detached residence

Recently renovated

4 bedrooms

Re-fitted kitchen & shower room

Driveway & gardens



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**NEW**

**WEDNESBURY**  
THE AVENUE

EPC 0

- Hallway
- Lounge Diner
- Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Private Parking Space
- Communal Grounds
- Viewing Is Essential

**\$95,000**

**BLOXWICH**  
WENLOCK GARDENS



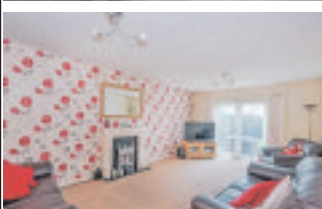
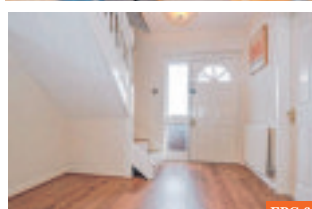



EPC 0

- Through Hallway
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Utility Room / Guest Wc
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Front And Rear Gardens

**\$110,000 OFFERS OVER**

**BLOXWICH**  
VICTORIA AVENUE

EPC 64

- Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Dining Room,
- Guest Wc
- Four Bedrooms
- Bathroom,
- Private Driveway
- Landscaped Gardens
- Integral Garage.

**\$245,000**

**REDUCED**

**WEDNESBURY**  
FRANCHISE GARDENS







EPC 75

- Entrance Porch,
- Guest Wc
- Hallway
- Kitchen, Lounge.
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom,
- 2nd Floor Master Bedroom
- Rear Garden

**OFFERS OVER \$110,000**

**BLOXWICH**  
COLLIERY DRIVE



EPC 59

- Hallway
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Refitted Kitchen
- Guest Wc
- Three Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom, En-suite
- Garage, Driveway
- Landscaped Gardens.

**\$230,000**

**NEW**

**BLOXWICH**  
CHESTNUT ROAD


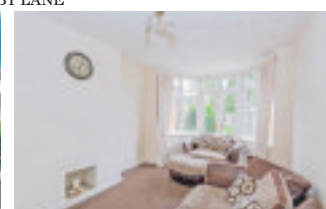
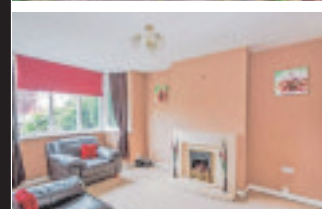




EPC 0

- Hallway
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen,
- Guest Wc
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom And Wc
- Driveway And Gardens
- Offered With No Chain

**\$120,000**

**WOLVERHAMPTON**  
STUBBY LANE

EPC 0

- Through Hallway
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen, Wc
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Private Driveway
- Gardens
- Offered With No Chain.

**\$179,995**

**NEW**

**WALSALL**  
STEPHENSON AVENUE




EPC 36

- Entrance Porch
- Spacious Lounge
- Refitted Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Two/three Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

**\$110,000**

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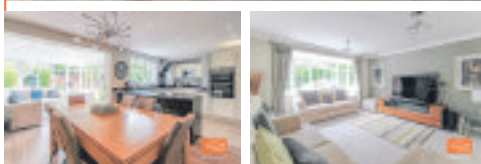
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35

The Chronicle  
Thursday, May 31, 2018



### Muxloe Close, Turnberry Estate

- Impressive Detached Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Crete Print Driveway
- Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
- Garden Room
- Immaculate Throughout
- High Specification Fixtures
- Garage
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- EPC - TBC

£350,000



### Werneth Grove, Turnberry Estate

- Extended Detached Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Main Lounge
- Sitting Room and Dining Area
- Conservatory
- EPC - TBC
- Well Presented Detached Family Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Recently Refurbished
- Generous Driveway and Single Garage
- Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- EPC - D (67)

£325,000



### Stafford Road, Bloxwich

- Well Presented Detached Family Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Recently Refurbished
- Generous Driveway and Single Garage
- Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- EPC - D (67)

£250,000



### Long Lane, Great Wryley

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Extended Lounge & Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Potential for Further Extension
- Superb Views Across Open Fields
- EPC - D (62)

£225,000



### Stamping Way, Bloxwich

- Immaculately Presented Town House
- Contemporary Style Decor
- Three/Four Bedrooms
- Fitted Wardrobes to the Master Bedroom
- Rear Garage and Parking Space
- EPC - C (80)

£190,000



### Griffins Crescent, Walsall

- 'The Kingsford' Design by Taylor Wimpey
- Popular Saddlers Brook Development
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Easy Access to Local Towns and the M6
- Granite Tiled Flooring in Hall & Kitchen
- EPC - C (79)

£185,000



### Walhouse Road, Walsall

- Very Well Presented Period Style Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms
- EPC - E (39)

£185,000



### Penmire Grove, Rushall

- Spacious Three Storey Town House
- Very Well Presented Throughout
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- En-Suite to the Master
- Driveway for Two Cars
- EPC - B (81)

£180,000



### Links Court, Turnberry Estate

- Exclusive Over 60's Development
- One Bedroom Apartment
- Parking Space Included
- Luxury Fixtures and Fittings
- Ground Floor
- EPC - B (82)

£169,950



### Water Reed Grove, Leamore

- Modern End Terrace
- Superbly Presented Throughout
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces
- Generous Rear Garden
- Quality Kitchen & Bathroom
- EPC - C (78)

£139,950



### Bentley Lane, Reedswood

- Modern End of Terrace Property
- Allocated Parking
- Built by Cala Homes in 2008
- Ground Floor WC
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- EPC - TBC

£125,000



### Wolverhampton Road, Essington

- Rose Cottage
- Located in Essington Village
- Sauna
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Detached Garage
- Delightful Rear Garden
- NO CHAIN
- EPC - TBC

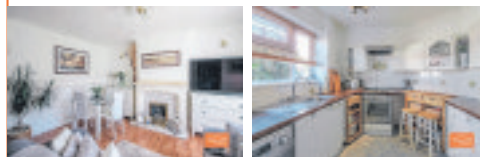
£175,000



### Somerfield Road, Bloxwich

- Very Well Presented Mid-Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Contemporary Style Lounge
- Dining Area
- Modern Extended Kitchen
- EPC - TBC

£125,000



### Telford Road, Beechdale

- Very Well Presented End of Terrace
- Easy Access to the M6 Motorway J10
- Light and Airy Interior
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Bathroom
- NO CHAIN
- EPC - TBC

£120,000



### Springhill Court, Sutton Road

- Two Bedroom Town Centre Flat
- Second Floor
- Communal Parking
- Very Good Condition Throughout
- Double Glazing & Electric Heating
- EPC - F (31)

O.I.E.O £80,000



### Wenlock Gardens, Leamore

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Lounge with French Doors
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor WC
- Gas Central Heating
- EPC - D (68)

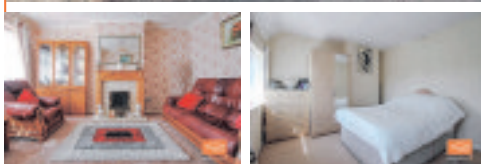
£110,000



### Parklands Gardens, Birmingham

- Ground Floor Flat
- Bedroom Plus Study
- Garage
- Kitchen with Integrated Appliances
- Extensively Refurbished
- EPC - E (44)

£105,000



### Netley Road, Mossley

- Well Maintained Semi-Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Low Energy Bills (Solar Panels)
- Ideal First Time Purchase
- Popular Mossley Area
- NO CHAIN
- EPC - D (55)

O.I.E.O £100,000



### Sheridan Close, Pleck

- Two Bedroom Bungalow
- Available to Over 55's
- Excellent Transport Links
- Communal Gardens
- Communal Parking Area
- EPC - C (69)

£80,000



### Walker Road, Bloxwich

- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge / Diner
- Ground Floor
- Two Bathrooms
- Allocated Parking
- EPC - C (78)

£84,950



### Walker Road, Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- EPC - B (83)

£80,000

## Call 01922 711444 for your Free Valuation



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# auction HOUSE

Birmingham &  
Black Country

## Estate House, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1DA

# 0121 289 3838

# Auction

Thursday 7th  
June 2018  
at 11:30am Precisely

Villa Park , Trinity Road,  
Birmingham. B6 6HE

LOT 1

### Springhill Road Brownhills

Thu 31st May 11:00am



●Guide Price £69,000 PLUS

In need of complete modernisation, this traditionally styled semi detached residence is conveniently located close to Brownhills town centre. With upvc double glazing and gas fired central heating ( not tested) the property offers a tremendous project for a buider.

LOT 2

### Haskell Street Walsall

Sat 2nd June 11:00am



●Guide Price £75,000 PLUS

This Victorian mid terraced property offers gas fired central heating and some upvc double glazing and would make an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor. Conveniently located in a popular residential area within a short distance of the town centre all amenities are close at hand.

LOT 3

### Bowater Road Yardley

By appointment with the auctioneers



●Guide Price £100,000 PLUS

Situated in a quiet cul de sac, this mid town house has double glazing and gas central heating and would make an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor. In need of some basic improvements, the property is convenient for both Stechford and Yardley.

LOT 4

### Hopyard Road Walsall

Sat 2nd June 12:00pm



●Guide Price £69,000 PLUS

A substantial semi detached property set in a quiet cul de sac and in need of modernisation. Conveniently located with good transport links the property is ideal for an investor or builder.

LOT 6

### Fordbrook Chambers Walsall

Friday 25th May 11am



●Guide Price £50,000 PLUS

Situated in an a very popular residential area this first floor flat is ideal for an investor. The property has already been modernised and with all amenities close at hand it comprises: Lounge/ Kitchen (4.3m x 4.2m), Bedroom One (3.3m x 4.1m), Bathroom (2.1m x 2.6m)

LOT 7

### Scarborough Road Walsall

Sat 2nd June 11:30am



●Guide Price £69,000 PLUS

Situated in a popular and sought after area close to the hospital, this traditionally styled semi detached property offers spacious well planned accommodation ideally suited to owner occupation or investors. In need of some modernisation the property has some upvc double glazing and central heating ( not tested).

LOT 8

### Willows Road Sheffield

Sat 2nd June 10:00am



●Guide Price £138,500 PLUS

Situated in the popular Chuckery area of Walsall this traditionally styled semi detached property has gas fired central heating and double glazing but is in need of modernisation. The spacious well planned accommodation is convenient for Walsall town centre with all amenities.

LOT 9

### Bryan Budd Close Rowley Regis

By appointment with the Auctioneers



●Guide Price £100,000 PLUS

Situated on a popular new development, with open aspect across golf course to the rear, this modern 3 storey mid town house offers generous accommodation with the benefit of gas central heating and double glazing. In need of some cosmetic improvements the property is subject to cash offers only and would therefore suit an investor.

LOT 16

### Oakland Road Walsall

Thu 31st May 12:15pm



●Guide Price £55,000 PLUS

Occupying a prominent corner plot, this semi detached property needs full modernisation and improvement. Ideal for a builders project. Ground Floor Reception Hall with stairs off, Lounge 4.2m x 4.1m, Kitchen 5.12m x 2.33m, Garden Room 3.32m x 2.8m. First Floor Staircase to Landing providing access to Bedroom 1 (front) 3.37m x 3.04m, Bedroom 2 3.47m x 2.15m, Bedroom 3 2.72m x 2.4m, Bathroom. Outside, Carport 8.14m x 3.33m.

LOT 18

### Heath Bridge Close Rushall

Thu 31st May 11:45am



●Guide Price £80,000 PLUS

Set at the head of a quiet cul de sac semi detached bungalow is in need of complete modernisation, but offers tremendous scope for improvement and extensions ( subject to planning etc) Conveniently located with good public transport services to Pelsall village and Walsall town centre.

LOT 20

### Delves Road Walsall

Sat 2nd June 10:30am



●Guide Price £135,000 PLUS

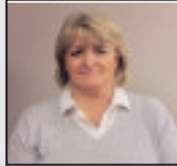
Conveniently located in a popular residential area of Walsall, this traditionally styled semi detached property has gas fired central heating and double glazing. In need of some modernisation, the property needs to be viewed to appreciate its potential. Ideal for either owner occupation or investment.

●Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide





Paul Marrion - Partner



Kathy Marrion - Partner

Energy Rating - TBC



**New**

**Enderley Drive**  
Bloxwich

●●● NO ONWARD CHAIN ●●●  
A wonderful garden setting awaits the buyer of this beautifully presented detached bungalow! Being situated in a tranquil no through road close to all amenities, the gas centrally heated, PVCu double glazed extended accommodation

briefly includes:- Dining Entrance, Spacious Rear Lounge, Extended Dining Kitchen, Utility Room, Guests Cloaks/WC, Fully Tiled Shower Room/WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Single Garage, Covered Way at Rear, Ample Driveway Parking and Delightful Mature Gardens

**£260,000**

Energy Rating - TBC



**New**

**Hall Lane**  
Pelsall

Situated on one of the Borough's most sought after residential roads, close to Pelsall Village and picturesque Common, this deceptively extended Post-war detached family home is an absolute must to view! The gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation briefly includes:- Enclosed Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Guests Cloaks Shower Room/

WC, Extended Lounge, Interconnecting Dining Room, Extended Re-fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances and Breakfast Area, Conservatory, Four Excellent Bedrooms with Built in Furniture, Excellent Bathroom/WC, with Separate Shower Compartment, Single Car Integral Garage, Excellent Parking to Driveway and Mature Landscaped Gardens

**£350,000**

Energy Rating - E

NEW



**Ingram Road**  
Bloxwich

• Semi detached house  
• Gas centrally heated  
• PVCu double glazed  
• 2 reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, utility  
• 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC  
• Garage  
• Gardens  
• Driveway

**£170,000**

Energy Rating - B



**New**

**Stamping Way**  
Bloxwich

Occupying a prominent corner position on this small well placed development by National House Builders Barratt Homes a short walk from Bloxwich High Street and Bloxwich Railway Station, this spacious three storey family home offers excellent value for money! Being most worthy of an early internal viewing, the gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed

accommodation briefly includes:- Canopy Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Fitted Guests Cloaks/WC, Kitchen/Dining Area, Separate Dining Room (alternative sitting room or bedroom 4), First Floor Lounge, Double Bedroom Three, Shower Room/WC, Second Floor Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom/WC, Single Car Garage, Driveway and Enclosed Rear Garden.

**£189,950**

Energy Rating - TBC



**New**

**Broad Lane**  
Bloxwich

●●● NO ONWARD CHAIN ●●●  
Offering particularly spacious extended internal accommodation which may only be truly appreciated upon a much advised early internal viewing, this individually designed detached family house is in need of a degree of modernisation. The gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed

accommodation briefly includes:- Enclosed Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Spacious Lounge/Dining Room, Conservatory, Extended Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Area, Guests Cloaks/WC, Four Bedrooms, Two Large Bathroom/WC's with coloured suites, Integral Garage, Block Paved Driveway and Mature Rear Garden

**£279,950**

Energy Rating - D

NEW



**Carrick Close**  
Pelsall

• Open views to front  
• Extended Semi-Detached Family Home  
• PVCu Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating  
• Three Reception Rooms  
• Downstairs Shower Room  
• Lounge, Kitchen  
• Three Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom  
• Large Tandem Garage

**£250,000**

Planning Granted

NEW



**Mulberry Road**  
Bloxwich

• Building Plot  
• Planning Permission Granted;  
• 1 x 4 bedroom detached house  
• Plus parking  
• Plans available for inspection  
• Freehold  
• VIEW TODAY!  
• 01922 404446

**£50,000**

Energy Rating - C

NEW



**Smithfield Road**  
Bloxwich

• Semi detached house  
• Gas centrally heated  
• PVCu double glazed  
• 2 reception rooms, kitchen  
• 3 bedrooms  
• Bathroom/WC  
• Driveway  
• Gardens

**£139,950**

Energy Rating - D

NEW



**Bealeys Lane**  
Bloxwich

• Extended Three bed Semi-detached House  
• Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating  
• Two Reception Rooms  
• Extended Fitted Kitchen  
• Utility Room, Downstairs WC,  
• Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom  
• Garage, Driveway  
• NO ONWARD CHAIN

**£239,950**

Energy Rating - D

NEW



**Signal Grove**  
Bloxwich

• First Floor Maisonette  
• Double Glazed & Electric Storage Heating  
• Lounge/Kitchen  
• Bedroom, Bathroom  
• Allocated Parking Space  
• NO ONWARD CHAIN  
• Must Be Viewed  
• 01922 404446

**£63,000**

Energy Rating - D

NEW



**Roebuck Road**  
Walsall

• Mid terrace house  
• Gas centrally heated  
• PVCu double glazed  
• Lounge, dining room, kitchen  
• 3 bedrooms, shower room/WC  
• Shower Room/WC  
• Driveway  
• Garden

**£129,000**

Energy Rating - D

NEW



**To Let**

**Tintern Crescent**  
Bloxwich

• Mid terrace house  
• Gas centrally heated  
• PVCu double glazed  
• Lounge, kitchen  
• 3 bedrooms, bathroom, separate WC  
• Garden and off road parking  
• SORRY NO DSS, PETS or SMOKERS  
• £180 reference fee applies

**£595**

Energy Rating - TBC

NEW



**Church View**  
Walsall

• Modern End Town House  
• Gas centrally heated  
• Double glazed  
• Lounge, Fitted kitchen  
• 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC  
• Bathroom  
• Driveway  
• Gardens

**£120,000**

Energy Rating - TBC



**New**

**Nest Common, Pelsall**  
Walsall

Offering excellent potential for extension and improvement, this well proportioned Mid Terrace family house is most worthy of early internal viewing! The gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed accommodation briefly includes:- Canopy Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, 'L'

**£499,999**



**Well Lane**  
Leamore

• Well Presented End of Terrace  
• Gas Central Heating  
• PVCu Double Glazing (where specified)  
• Two Reception Rooms  
• Kitchen  
• Downstairs Bathroom  
• Three Bedrooms,  
• Driveway, Rear Garden.

**£119,950**

Energy Rating - C



**Victoria Avenue**  
Bloxwich

• Newly refurbished Semi-Detached House  
• PVCu Double Glazed and Gas Centrally Heated  
• Front Lounge, Rear Kitchen  
• Down Stairs WC  
• Three Bedrooms  
• Newly Re-Fitted Bathroom  
• Gravelled Driveway  
• Low Maintenance Rear Garden

**£125,000**

Energy Rating - TBC



**Buxton Close**  
Bloxwich

• End Of Terrace  
• Immaculately Presented  
• Lounge & Dining Room  
• Kitchen, Conservatory & Shower Room  
• Two Good Size Bedrooms & Family Bathroom  
• Rear Garden  
• Off Road Parking  
• Garage

**£144,950**

Energy Rating - B



**Reduced**

**Penmire Grove**  
Rushall

• Three Storey Town House  
• PVCu double glazing & Gas Central Heating  
• Fitted Kitchen, Rear Lounge/Diner  
• 3 Bedrooms, en-suite  
• Family Bathroom  
• Rear Garden  
• NO ONWARD CHAIN  
• Must Be Viewed

**£175,000**

Energy Rating - D



**Thurlstone Road**  
Walsall

• Detached Bungalow  
• Well Presented  
• Gas Central Heating, PVCu double glazing  
• 2 Bedrooms, Lounge  
• Fitted kitchen  
• Bathroom  
• Garage, Car Port Driveway  
• Fore and Rear Gardens

**£224,950**

Energy Rating - TBC



**Victoria Avenue**  
Bloxwich

• Spacious Modern Detached Home  
• Gas Central Heated & Double Glazed  
• 2 Reception Rooms  
• Kitchen  
• 3 Bedrooms  
• Bathroom  
• Driveway  
• Rear Garden

**£240,000**



# K. Stuart Swash

## AUCTION - 12th JUNE 2018



**138 LEA ROAD, PENN FIELDS, WV3 0LQ**

**Full modernisation required**

Well located in established & popular residential area - small foregarden, open Porch, Hall, Store, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Rear Hallway,

Bathroom area, Landing, Three Bedrooms Rear Garden. Epc: TBA

**Guide £65,000 / £75,000**

**Viewing: Friday & Saturday, 1st & 2nd June, at 11.00 a.m. NOTE: Torch essential for Viewing**

PLEASE NOTE: Viewing of all Lots at own risk. Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule. Please Register for Catalogue

2, Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton | 01902 710626 / 424044 E-mail: swashauctions@btconnect.com | www.kstuartswash.co.uk

## PROPERTY



## An immaculate property in exclusive development

Goodchilds Exclusive Homes are delighted to offer this immaculately presented family home located in an exclusive modern Bellway development named **The Green**, just off Stafford Road in Bloxwich.

This impressive detached five-bedroom property is set on a generous plot on the corner of Par Court and Sanstone Road with superb views over Bloxwich Golf Course. It is on sale through Goodchilds for £439,950.

**BLOXWICH**  
**£439,950**

The property has high quality fixtures and fittings throughout including granite work surfaces, porcelain tiles, re-fitted bathrooms and bespoke lighting, and a double garage. To the front of the property is a portion of land on the corner of the cul-de-sac and Sanstone Road and it is included in the sale.

The family living kitchen features integrated appliances, porcelain tiled flooring, granite worktops and two sets of French doors opening to the rear garden.

The property also features a detached double garage.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in this sale.

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**Guide £420,000 / £440,000.**

**VIEWING: Friday & Saturday 1st & 2nd June @9.45 a.m.**

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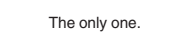
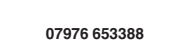


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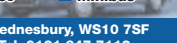
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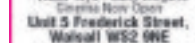
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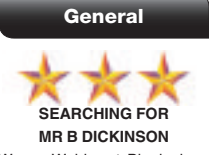
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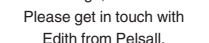
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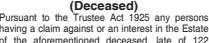
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Annie Hicklin breaks through to fire at goal for the Cannock Olympia team



Olympia Cannock thwart a Stroud attack on their way to becoming national champions



MVP Olivia Gonsalves scores for Olympia Cannock



Athalia Imbanga bursts through for Cannock

# Girl power! Team gets hands on national title

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

*"It is really difficult to win the national two years ago so this really is a fantastic achievement."*

**A TALENTED handball team is celebrating after being crowned national champions for the second successive year.**

Cannock Olympia reclaimed their under-19s national handball title after beating Stroud at the Derby Arena.

The victory is the latest in a long line of success for the team which is coached by Maria Moore.

Over the past few years, the Olympia under-19s team have reached 10 national finals, winning eight of them.

Olivia Gonsalves, Athalia Imbanga, Ellie Smith, Annie Hicklin and Mia Williams all played starring roles in their latest triumph – with Imbanga netting in the final 20 seconds to secure the 24-23 win over Stroud.

And club chairman Nenad 'Pop' Popovic believes the girls' success will never be repeated.

### Special

"It is really difficult to win the national two years ago so this really is a fantastic achievement," he said. "The success of this team will never be repeated."

"It is special because all the girls attend Cardinal Griffin Catholic College except for one who is from Sutton Coldfield.

"They have now played in 10 national finals, winning eight of them and have only ever lost one game in their age category.

"The girls are a credit to Cannock and the area." Following the performance at the Derby Arena,



The Olympia team celebrate their success, which follows last year's win

Gonsalves was crowned Most Value Player for the second successive year. And while she is too old to play for the team next year, Popovic isn't ruling out a hat-trick of national titles.

"All but three of the girls are eligible to play for the under-19s next year," he added.

"Some of them are going off to play in the senior for Manchester Hawks.

"It could be a hat-trick of victories but it is going to be very difficult.

"Gonsalves was crowned MVP but she can't play next year because she is too old by three days which she isn't happy about.

"But this is a fantastic team full of talented players so they will give it everything."

Meanwhile, Popovic thanked team sponsor Cameron Homes for the role they have played in the team's success.

"We have all benefited from the support of Cameron Homes who are drivers behind girls' handball in the area," he added.

"Because of all the support they have given us we have been able to grow and attract girls from further afield. We have now got a host of talented youngsters coming through the ranks and they'll ensure the club is successful for many years."

## RAF runners fly to a record relay run

RUNNERS have smashed a relay world record by more than four hours at RAF Cosford. The challenge saw 100 members of the RAF clock up consecutive 10 kilometre runs on the athletics track at the air force base in 64 hours, 36 minutes and 22 seconds.

The previous record was set in Palos Heights in Illinois, in June, 2015 at 69 hours, six minutes and 52 seconds.

Servicemen and women are now waiting with bated breath for the Guinness World Record adjudicators to verify their attempt. Runners from air force bases across the UK descended on Shropshire for the attempt.

The final 10k leg was run by senior aircraftsman Michael Kallenberg, the venture's chief organiser. He said: "It has been a long three or four days, but we're all delighted that we've broken the record. I was quite lucky doing the final leg, I got to enjoy it and lap it up as it were."

"I just thought, with it being the 100th anniversary of the RAF, it would be nice to set a new world record in celebration."

## Howzat! New cricket pitches now on way

THREE all-weather cricket practice pitches and a basketball court are to be created as part of a £150,000 new sports centre.

Wolverhampton Council is working with the England and Wales Cricket Board on the scheme for Peace Green, which is off the Dunstall Road, Dunstall Hill. Work is due to start over the next few weeks. It is hoped that the facilities will be ready in September.

### Health

Artificial cricket wickets are also set for East Park, Claregate Playing Fields, Fowlers Park, Newbridge Playing Fields, King George V Playing Fields in Wednesfield, Goodyear park off the Stafford Road and Ward Street in Bilston.

Councillor Hazel Malcolm, cabinet member for public health, said: "These facilities will have a major role to play in improving health and well-being."

## Back in best shape for this fight – Davis

BIRMINGHAM super bantamweight, Sean 'Showtime' Davis, is looking forward to his ring return. Davis, is set to fight on BCB Promotions Emerging Stars card on Saturday, June 9.

The Brummie boxer has been in a number of high profile bouts, including fights for the WBC International Super Bantamweight Title and BBBofC British Super Bantamweight Title, and is looking forward to stepping back in the squared circle.

"I am feeling great and I am back in the best shape possible," he told www.bcb-promotions.com. "It has been a long time since my last fight and I am really happy to get back in the ring. The work rate for me has always been very high but I seemed to have found a new level of fitness."

Davis made the difficult decision to move trainers from Peter Christie to Shaun Cogan earlier this year. It was a tough call to make for the likeable 26 year-old, having been with Christie since childhood. However, he is enjoying life under his new mentor.



# Sport

Girls keep their hands in  
to reach the very top  
See page 43



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## Brummies' tricky start ends in win

BIRMINGHAM survived a tricky start against the Isle of Wight to win their Travel Plus National League opener 53-37 at Perry Barr last Wednesday.

Based on early season form, many predicted a comfortable victory for the Edwards Plumbing Brummies, but the visitors proved awkward customers in the opening exchanges.

In fact it was the Isle of Wight who led with five races gone following exclusions for Layne Cupitt and Arran Butcher as well as mechanical issues for Jack Parkinson-Blackburn on his return to the club.

But the Perry Barr side came on strong thereafter, winning nine of the final 10 races to help them maintain their unbeaten start to the season.

Danyon Hume reeled off three wins on his way to 12 points while teenage reserve Leon Flint racked up double figures for a fifth successive meeting.

Captain Tom Bacon contributed paid double figures while Callum Walker produced another encouraging display, totalling nine points for a second week running.

After ignition problems in his first two, fans' favourite Jack Parkinson-Blackburn went unbeaten by an opponent in his final three rides as he settled back into life at Perry Barr nicely.

Arran Butcher received the biggest cheer of the night as he secured a surprise yet impressive paid win in Heat Seven while Layne Cupitt's paid win in the previous race was the only time he troubled the scorers.

## Beech Junior signs up to be a part of growing BCB talent

BCB Promotions have announced the signing of Walsall super bantamweight boxing prospect, James Beech Junior, on a three-year management deal.

The 21 year-old, undefeated in six bouts, joins BCB from MTK Birmingham and follows in his father's footsteps in signing for Errol Johnson.

Beech Senior enjoyed 31 professional outings under Johnson between 1999 and 2008 and Junior is delighted to continue the family tradition.

"I always knew I'd end up signing with BCB," he explained. "I've really enjoyed my time at MTK and they have gotten me to 6-0 in a relatively short space of time. I'd like to thank everyone at MTK for their support but this is the next chapter for me. My dad and Errol go back a long way and he's really pleased that I'm following in his footsteps."

The graduate of Pleck Boxing Club, who he represented on 80 occasions, will continue to train out of Great Wyrley Boxing Club under Pete Hickenbottom but will visit BCB HQ for regular sparring and fitness sessions with trainers Paul Mann and Ben Wilkes.

## Guthrie: Saddlers need more leaders



Jon Guthrie - backing manager

DEFENDER Jon Guthrie has backed boss Dean Keates' view that Walsall need more leaders to fare better in League One.

Guthrie played every minute of every game as the Saddlers spent a large chunk of last season in a relegation fight, finishing two points above the drop zone.

The 25-year-old was the oldest player to start for them in their final

game at Fleetwood, which they lost 2-0. I think we could do with a few more (leaders)," said Guthrie.

"At Fleetwood, I was the oldest out there at 25 years old. You don't find that often.

"We have got some older heads, like Skip (Adam Chambers).

"But when the games are coming thick and fast - and with us being down there - we could have done with

a few more older heads to help us through."

Meanwhile ex-Wolves and Villa goalkeeper Michael Oakes is back in West Midlands football as a coach at Walsall. Oakes - who came through the ranks at Villa Park and later spent eight years at Molineux - left Wrexham and is linking up with former Dragons boss Dean Keates at the Banks's Stadium.

# SPORTING BOSS PADDOCK GOES

## Saddlers unveil new kits



Walsall have launched their new look for the 2018/19 season. Players Liam Roberts, George Dobson and Nicky Devlin were on hand to model the new designs, made by Errea.

## ANDY PADDOCK has stepped down as Wolverhampton Sporting manager after winning the league title and cup.

Paddock resigned due to family and work commitments on the back of a stand-out season which saw the Great Wyrley-based team promoted to the Midland League Premier Division.

He was at the helm of Sporting for three-and-a-half seasons but believes he has taken them as far as he can go. Paddock said: "I have been thinking about stepping down for a bit.

"When I took over the club they were bottom of the league. Now we have won the league and I feel I have taken them as far as I can. This role takes a lot of time and commitment and to be honest I am at work quite a lot and have family commitments."

Sporting won the West Midlands League's Premier Division and League Cup and they also made it to the final of the JW Hunt Cup where they narrowly missed out on a third piece of silverware after losing 1-0 to Atherstone.

Paddock thanked the club for their support and the players, who he called 'an amazing group' and believes they will surprise a few teams next season. Sporting will be playing in the Midlands League after winning promotion from the West Midlands Regional League.

The club have now begun their search for a new manager. A club spokesman said they were 'disappointed' to see Paddock step down.

In a statement, the club said: "We can't thank 'Wokko' enough for everything he has done in the last three-and-a-half seasons."

"We are now inviting applications for the vacant first team managers



Andy Paddock, moving on

position which are to be sent to wolvessporting@yahoo.co.uk."

Paddock took over Sporting midway through the 2014/15 season when they were struggling near the relegation places. He guided them to a 16th-place finish. The following season they finished fourth and had their first ever FA Cup appearance, alongside reaching the League Cup and JW Hunt Cup finals. And in 2016/17 they came third in the league as part of their transformation under Paddock.

Then this season they won the league and league cup in a historic double and they also reached the last 16 of the FA Vase.

## Walsall can't do enough to halt holders

KNOWLE & Dorridge seamer Jack Grundy took 5-58 and Will Mottram 3-32 to restrict Walsall to 143 all out at Station Road in the Birmingham League Premier, but the Gorway side made the title holders work hard for their three-wicket victory.

It needed an unbeaten 35 from Ethan Brookes to see them home after they had slipped to 101-6.

Streetly were skittled for 56 by Coventry & N.W. in 25 overs in Division Three with Manbir Johal taking the first five wickets for 21. Ashley Turney followed up with 3 for 11 and Coventry only needed 6.2 overs to clinch a 10-wicket victory after Okera Bascome struck 37 not out from 21 balls.

Matthew Westwood's 68 helped Aldridge to 145 against Beacon in the Staffs Clubs championship, Leigh Passmore taking 7-33. In reply, an unbeaten 40 from Jason Swann helped Beacon to a five-wicket victory.

Bloxwich were dismissed for 123 against Codsall, with Thomas Wassell and David Stibbontaking three wickets apiece. Codsall's Jimmy Howell was not out 70, helping his side to a seven-wicket triumph.

Walsall YPF were dismissed cheaply, falling for just 67 against Wightwick & Finchfield, who promptly won by nine wickets.

An unbeaten 78 from Abrar Ahmed took Highcroft & Great Bar past the Codsall total of 226 with just one wicket to spare.

## Judo star Howell clinches bronze

A JUDO star who trains in the Black Country fought her way to a bronze medal at an international competition.

Gemma Howell, from Wolverhampton Judo Club, took home bronze at the Hohhot Grand Prix in China after dispatching some of the world's best fighters. Howell first beat Austria's world number 16 Michaela Polleres, then Germany's world number 33 Laura Vargas Koch and Chizuru Arai, of Japan.

Howell lost in the semi-final to Holland's Sanne Van Dijke, meeting Mongolia's Naranjargal Tsend-Ayush to have a shot at bronze, beating her in under a minute and then beat Anna Bernholm.

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